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M. P. KOAN, Business Manager.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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The Daily and Weekly Commercial—NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice, whether directed to his own or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not, is responsible for the payment.

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FIRST EDITION

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Consideration of Judicial Apportionment Bill.

Mr. Rutan's Amendment Adopted.

The Bill Passes First Reading.

Usury Bill Discussed in the House.

Changes in the Insurance Bill.

Attempt to Blackmail Banks.

The Trick Partially Successful.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, February 20, 1874.

SENATE.

The Senate met at eleven o'clock.

Mr. Collins presented the petition of seven thousand citizens of Luzerne county for the repeal of the Local Option law.

Mr. Cooper—The remonstrance of the New Garden Monthly Meeting of Friends, of Chester county, against the repeal of the Local option law.

Mr. Ermentrout—The petition of citizens of Kutztown, Berks county, praying for the repeal of the act, entitled, "A supplement to the act for the regulation of boroughs," approved April 2d, 1804.

Mr. Ermentrout also offered the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That when the Senate adjourns it adjourn to meet on Monday evening, at half-past seven o'clock."

Mr. Lamon, of Philadelphia, moved to amend by inserting Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock. Lost by a vote of 11 to 13.

Mr. Fitch moved to amend by inserting to-morrow morning at eleven o'clock, but subsequently withdrew the amendment.

The question being on the original resolution, it was agreed to by a vote of 13 yeas to 12 nays.

Mr. Wallace, of the Committee on Constitutional Reform, reported as committed, an act entitled "An act to regulate the mode of increasing the indebtedness of municipalities, to provide for the redemption of the same, and to impose penalties for the illegal increase thereof."

Bills on second reading being next in order, Mr. Rutan moved to proceed to the consideration of the Judicial Apportionment bill, and withdrew that part of his amendment detaching the county of Wyoming from the Twenty-third district, composed of the counties of Columbia, Sullivan, Wyoming and Montour, and adding it to Susquehanna.

The amendment, as follows, was agreed to: That Warren be detached from Erie county, and that Erie constitute the Twenty-fourth district: that Forest be detached from Venango, and that Venango constitute the Thirty-first district: that Elk be detached from Jefferson and Clarion, and that Jefferson and Clarion constitute the Thirty-second district; that Green and Fayette constitute the Fourteenth district: that Warren, Elk and Forest constitute the Thirty-seventh district.

Mr. McSherry moved to amend by detaching the county of Adams from the Fifth district, composed of York and Adams, and creating another district, to be known as the Forty-second district, composed of the county of Adams. The amendment was not agreed to, and the first section as amended was agreed to.

The second section, which provides for additional law judges in the Eleventh, Second, Twelfth, Fifth, Thirty-fourth, Twenty-sixth and Twenty-third districts, was read, when Mr. White moved to strike out the Twenty-third district, composed of Columbia, Monroe, Wyoming and Sullivan. After considerable discussion, participated in by Messrs. White, Strang, Rutan, Wallace and Chalfant, on a call of the yeas and nays the amendment was defeated by a vote of 22 nays to 1 yea. On motion to agree to the section, it was agreed to—yeas 22, nays 1. The remaining sections were agreed to on first reading.

The following bill passed first reading: Senate bill No. 42, entitled "An act to provide for the organization and regulation of insurance companies."

The Senate adjourned until Monday evening at half-past seven o'clock.

HOUSE.

After the reading of the journal, Mr. Newmyer said that on his arrival in Harrisburg last night he learned for the first time, and with great surprise, that an attempt had been made by some unknown parties to levy blackmail on the banks and bankers of this Commonwealth by means of a fraudulent statement contained in a circular. He denounced this disgraceful attempt and urged the fullest and freest investigation of the charges, and suggested that additional powers be given the committee. Agreed to.

The Usury bill then came up. After several dilatory motions, Mr. Mitchell got the floor and made the best speech of the session in favor of repealing all rates.

Mr. Orvis followed and Mr. Wolfe called the previous question, which was not agreed to. The morning hour expired, and the bill went over.

R. H. King, President of the Cash Insurance Company, Wm. H. Forsythe, of the Boatman's, and S. S. D. Thompson, of the Armenia, had a conference with Insurance Commissioner Montgomery Foster this morning on the new bill. Several changes were agreed upon. The first change enlarges the limits within which companies are allowed to invest in first mortgages, leaving it optional with the board. The second provides that the time for the payment of notes for subscriptions to the capital stock shall be extended two years from the present time and that no cash dividends shall be declared until these notes are paid up in full. The bill will soon, it is thought be acceptable to all concerned.

The two lads who were putting it up on the various banks on behalf of the Usury bill had their headquarters at the Bolton House, where the letters were being received. Quite a number of banks have mailed letters to them and dropped them since the fraud was discovered. It is said they are members of the House.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

The Pope has sent a letter to the Massachusetts Catholic Temperance Union, encouraging the members in their work.

The estates of Stephen and Abby Kelly Foster, Sarah Wall and Margarite Flagg, who refuse to pay taxes until women can vote, were yesterday offered for sale by the tax collector of Worcester, Mass., to pay the taxes of 1872. The last named was bought in by a friend, but no one bid for the other estates.

The steamships Russia, from Liverpool; Chiller from Hamburg, and Olympia, from Glasgow, arrived at New York yesterday.

Thomas H. Rodman has been appointed district Attorney of Kings county, New York, in place of Britton, removed.

Colonel Wyatt S. Thomas, editor of the Pine Bluff (Ark.) *Press*, a prominent journalist of the State, died on Thursday.

A meeting of merchants of Chicago was held at the Merchants' Exchange rooms yesterday afternoon, at which a resolution was adopted protesting against the increase of the present volume of currency, and denouncing the action of the Illinois Senators on the subject. The meeting was not large, but embraced a number of the largest merchants.

The will of Mrs. Eliza Gilpin, of Philadelphia, has been probated. It makes provisions to carry into effect the will of her late husband, Henry D. Gilpin, who devised a hundred thousand dollars, to be equally divided between the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Historical Society of Chicago and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

Mr. De La Reintree, formerly United States consul at Havana, died in that city on Thursday.

The Massachusetts Supreme Court has decided that, under the Constitution of that State, a woman may be a member of a School Committee.

Outstanding legal tenders amount to $381,-209,827.

The Ohio State Grange adjourned yesterday afternoon at Xenia, to hold the next annual meeting in Columbus.

Gerrit Smith has unconditionally given $10,-000 to Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y., his *alma mater*.

Six hundred workmen of the extra force are to be discharged from the Philadelphia navy yard to-day.

The Canonicus goes into commission to-day. Her destination is supposed to be Key West.

The striking cotton and woollen mill operatives of Philadelphia held a meeting last night and resolved to adhere to their demands. The manufacturers state that the hands have only injured themselves by this action, as most of the mills have now on hand a large stock of manufactured goods, and were only running under the least possible expense to simply keep going and give employment to their hands.

Now that the man who killed a rival in a duel in Virginia, some time ago, has been pardoned because he could not bear confinement, it is to be hoped that his health will improve.

All penalties collected under the Illinois compulsory Education law are to go for the use of the school district where the offense was committed.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

DEPARTURE OF MINISTER SCHENCK FOR AMERICA.

LONDON, February 20.—Gen. R. S. Schenck, the American Minister, and A. G. Cattell, Special Agent of the United States in Europe, will leave Liverpool to-morrow for New York. General Schenck expects to be absent three months. His family will remain here. Benjamin Moran, Secretary of the United States Legation, will act as Minister during General Schenck's absence.

THE QUEEN RECEIVES DISRAELI.

LONDON, February 20.—Disraeli had an interview with the Queen this evening.

OFFICIAL LIST OF NEW MINISTRY.

LONDON, February 20.—The following list of members of the new Cabinet is official: First Lord of the Treasury, Disraeli; Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Northcote; First Lord of the Admiralty, George Ward Hunt; Secretary of State for the Home Department, Richard Assheton Cross; Secretary of State for the Foreign Department, Earl Derby; Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, Earl Carnavon; Secretary of State for War, Gathorne Hardey; Secretary of State for India, Marquis of Salisbury; Lord High Chancellor, Lord Cairns; Lord of the Privy Seal, Earl Malmesbury; Lord President of the Council, Duke of Richmond. Lord John Manners is appointed Postmaster General.

ANOTHER CANDIDATE FOR THE PEERAGE.

LONDON, February 20.—Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, who was Secretary of State for War in the Gladstone ministry, is to be elevated to the peerage under the title of Viscount Rivington.

THREE RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

are reported to-day. The most serious one happened to the Scotch mail train, which ran into a luggage van near Preston. Fifteen persons were injured and two have died. The cars were demolished.

GENERAL SIR GARNET WOLESLEY,

commander of the Ashantee expedition, is a sufferer to a large amount by the destruction of the pantechnicon.

France.

EXTREME WATCHFULNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

PARIS, February 20.—The Duke de Broglie, Minister of the Interior, has sent a circular to Prefects desiring them to keep a watch upon citizens who leave for Chiselhurst on the occasion of the Prince Imperial becoming of age.

Japan.

WAR AT HOME OR ABROAD INEVITABLE.

YEDDO, February 20.—Political disturbances are apprehended in Japan. Minister Iwakura has tendered his resignation, but the Mikado refuses to accept it. The people clamor for war against the Coreans. This or a civil war is inevitable.

Marine News.

LIVERPOOL, February 20.—Steamers Goethe and Great Western arrived out.

European Markets.

LONDON, February 20.—Consols for money, 92¼ @92⅝; for account 92⅝. Bonds—5 20's '65, 109¾; '67, 107¾; 10-40's, 103⅜; new 5's, 104⅜. New York Central 94¾; Erie 44¾@44⅝; Erie preferred 66¾.

PARIS, February 20.—Rentes 59 francs 5 centimes.

ANTWERP, February 20.—Refined petroleum 32 francs.

LIVERPOOL, February 20.—Cotton easier; middling uplands 7 3-16d; Orleans 8¼d; sales 15,000 bales; American 7,000, speculation and export 2,000. Breadstuffs firmer. California white wheat average 12s 9½d@13s. Others unchanged.

CRIMES.

Dry Goods Store Robbed.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MONONGAHELA, Pa., February 20, 1874.

The dry goods store of Roebuck & Tubner was broken into last night and robbed of a large amount of clothing. Officers are on the track of the thieves.

Capture of One of the Thieves.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LIMA, O., February 20, 1874.

Two men jumped out of a freight car this morning and started for the country, pursued by policeman James Corrs. One escaped, but Corrs shot the other, who had on three suits of clothes throughout. He is of the gang who robbed the store at Monroeville, where he will be taken as soon as he is able to travel.

Case of Infanticide.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LETONIA, O., February 20, 1874.

Considerable excitement was caused here by an infant child being found in a privy vault. At the coroner's inquest, which is still in progress, testimony was elicited which proves the child had lived, and points with much certainty to the perpetrator of the deed. It is expected that after a verdict has been returned affidavits will be made and certain parties arrested.

Another One.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ROCHESTER, PA., February 20, 1874.

This afternoon the body of an infant was found on the banks of the river at this place. It was inclosed in a cigar box and almost completely imbedded in the sand. It is supposed to have been buried for some time, the high water having washed the earth from above leading to its disclosure. The coroner's jury, it is said, will develop that it was still born, and that its mother came from a distance.

Rape Near Circleville, Ohio.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CIRCLEVILLE, O., February 20, 1874.

A fiendish outrage on the person of Mrs. J. Steele, by one John Williams, about eighteen miles east of here, is reported. The lady is in a critical condition. Williams is under arrest. The particulars have not yet been received.

Behanna Sentenced for Manslaughter.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, PA., February 20, 1874.

Behanna, convicted of manslaughter for the Monongahela killing, was sentenced to the penitentiary for five years.

State Treasurer of Kansas.

ST. LOUIS, February 20.—The *Democrat's* Topeka, Kansas, special says the Committee on State Affairs, who have been investigating the accounts of State Treasurer Hays, have found gross irregularities in his management, and will report resolutions recommending his impeachment. It is said the State will not lose anything, as Hays's bondsmen are responsible for all liabilities.

Wife of Wealthy Citizen of Erie County Charged with Murder.

ERIE, PA., February 20.—The wife of Ezra Cooper, one of the wealthiest men in this county, was arrested to-day on suspicion of murdering a servant girl. It is said she was jealous of the girl, imagining too great intimacy between the deceased and her husband.

Arrest of a Supposed Forger.

ST. LOUIS, February 20.—An old man dressed in the English style of a century ago, known as the Baron, *alias* Sir Morton Peto, was arrested here to-day, on suspicion of being implicated in forgeries at Keokuk, Davenport, Hannibal, Quincy and Rock Island. Among the papers on his person was a draft for $2,800, signed by Sir Morton Peto. He will be held for identification by the authorities of any of the above named towns.

Making a Target of a College President.

LOUISVILLE, February 20.—Some unknown person fired three shots through the window at Rev. Mr. Fairchild, President of Berea College, Madison county, Kentucky, while that gentleman was sitting in his room, a few nights since. None of the shots took effect, and the assailant escaped in the darkness. No cause is assigned for the act, and there are no suspicions as to the person.

CASUALTIES.

An Asphyxiated Well Digger and an Heroic Stranger.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BUCYRUS, O., February 20, 1874.

A well digger by the name of Madison Andrews was saved this afternoon from a horrible death by a tramp named Peter Rogers, who hails from Brooklyn, N. Y. Andrews, while walling John P. Mounett's well, remarked that there was a strong smell of gas. Several citizens were attracted to the spot. Dr. Cuyckendall informed him of his danger, but he continued at work and was soon seen sinking helpless to the bottom of the well, which is twenty-eight feet deep. The alarm was raised and a large crowd assembled. Terror blanched every cheek. Dr. Cuyckendall was the first to venture down to his relief, but the gas was so powerful that he was obliged to ascend. He was followed by John Hopley, editor of the *Journal*, who was soon so completely prostrated that but for the assistance of friends he would have sunk to the bottom. Finally Mr. Rogers, who was looking on, got into the bucket and was lowered by the windlass. He was unsuccessful, and called to be taken out. Full of resolution to save the unfortunate man or die in the attempt, he tied a rope around his body and went down again. Tying the rope around Andrews's neck, he made a signal and was drawn to the top, holding his charge, who weighs some two hundred pounds. Andrews was completely asphyxiated, as he had lain there fully twenty minutes. He is now recovering. A handsome purse is being made up by our citizens as a slight testimonial of their appreciation of the noble-hearted man who twice risked his own life to save the life of a stranger.

FIRE RECORD.

New York—$5,000.

NEW YORK, February 20.—A fire at No. 10 Cortland street early this morning, damaged the building and contents to the amount of about $5,000.

Rockford, Ind.—$50,000.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

SEYMOUR, IND., February 20, 1874.

The Rockford flouring mill, at the town of Rockford, two miles north of this place, was totally destroyed by fire this morning. Loss fifty thousand dollars. No insurance.

XLIII. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 20, 1874.

SENATE.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States transmitting the resolution of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, on the subject of the cultivation of timber and the preservation of forests. Also, a communication from the Commissioner of the General Land Office on the same subject. Referred.

Mr. SCOTT presented a petition from citizens of Pennsylvania against any restoration of the duties on tea and coffee, or any additional internal taxation. Referred.

Mr. SUMNER presented the petition of the Pennsylvania Women's Suffrage Association protesting against the passage of the bill to aid in the execution of the laws in Utah. Referred.

Mr. SHERMAN said he desired to call the attention of the Senate to an error in the Tariff bill in regard to fruits being admitted free, which had led to the loss of half a million dollars of revenue, and which might lead to the loss of a larger amount. He was glad to be able to say that the error did not occur in the Senate, but was caused by somebody adding an "s" to the word "fruit" and then a comma. He did not know who did it, but the subject ought to be inquired into.

Mr. ANTHONY thought that engrossed bills should pass from one House to the other in print and not in manuscript. After considerable time spent in explanation, the subject was dropped.

Mr. LOGAN said that yesterday morning, when the Chairman of the Finance Committee presented the petition of bankers and merchants of Chicago protesting against any increase in the volume of the currency, he supposed it was signed by many whose names he had noticed in the newspapers as the first to close their doors at the commencement of the panic. Subsequently he went to the committee's room and examined the petition, when he found that the names he referred to were not attached to it. As he did not desire to do injustice to any one, he made this statement, the petition being signed by respectable business men.

Mr. CHANDLER introduced a joint resolution releasing members of the military court which tried Fitz John Porter in 1862, from the obligations of the oath they took as members of the court, not to disclose the vote or opinion of any member thereof, and asked present consideration thereof.

Mr. FERRY, of Connecticut objected.

Mr. CHANDLER gave notice he would call it up on Monday.

Mr. HAMILTON, of Maryland, moved that when the Senate adjourn to-day, it be to meet on Monday next.

Mr. SUMNER introduced a resolution instructing the Committee on Enrolled Bills to inquire into the expediency of superseding the present system of preparing bills in the last stage of a bill, and provide that when it be presented to the President for approval it shall be printed, and so preserved in the Department of State.

Mr. SARGENT said he did not oppose the resolution, but thought it should also provide that there should be no legislation during the last two or three days of session, as it would be impracticable to print bills in the haste which generally characterizes the last days of a session unless something be done to prevent legislation on the last two or three days.

Mr. SUMNER said there might be a small printing establishment in the Capitol for the last days of the session to facilitate legislation. The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. FLANAGAN submitted a resolution instructing the Secretary of the Treasury to report to the Senate the number of illicit distilleries suppressed by officers of the government in the last six months, and the producing capacity thereof. Agreed to.

The morning hour having expired, the Senate resumed consideration of the financial bill, the pending motion being to reconsider the vote of yesterday by which the substitute of Mr. Cooper was adopted.

Mr. FERRY, of Connecticut, moved to lay the bill and all amendments on the table. Lost—yeas 17, nays 36.

Mr. BOREMAN moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Executive business.

Mr. SHERMAN called for the yeas and nays, and gave notice that he would call the yeas and nays on every proposition.

Mr. BOREMAN withdrew his motion.

The question then recurred on the motion to reconsider the vote by which the substitute of Mr. Cooper was adopted yesterday, and it was reconsidered—yeas 31, nays 23, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Allison, Bogy, Boreman, Boutwell, Cameron, Clayton, Conover, Ferry of Michigan, Goldthwaite, Gordon, Hager, Harvey, Hitchcock, Howe, Johnston, Logan, McCreery, Merriman, Mitchell, Morton, Norwood, Oglesby, Patterson, Pease, Pratt, Ramsey, Robertson, Spencer, Sprague, Stevenson, Wadleigh—28.

NAYS—Messrs. Anthony, Boutwell, Buckingham, Chandler, Conkling, Cooper, Cragin, Davis, Fenton, Ferry of Connecticut, Gilbert, Hager, Hamlin, Kelly, Morrill of Maine, Sargent, Schurz, Scott, Sherman, Stevenson, Stewart, Stockton, Sumner and Wadleigh—23.

Mr. Cooper's amendment was then rejected.

The question recurring on Mr. Merrimon's amendment, it was adopted—yeas 28, nays 25, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Allison, Bogy, Boreman, Cameron, Clayton, Conover, Ferry of Michigan, Goldthwaite, Harvey, Hitchcock, Howe, Johnston, Logan, McCreery, Merriman, Mitchell, Morton, Norwood, Oglesby, Patterson, Pease, Pratt, Ramsey, Robertson, Spencer, Sprague, Stevenson, West—28.

NAYS—Messrs. Anthony, Boutwell, Buckingham, Chandler, Conkling, Cooper, Cragin, Davis, Fenton, Ferry of Connecticut, Gilbert, Hager, Hamlin, Kelly, Morrill of Maine, Sargent, Schurz, Scott, Sherman, Stevenson, Stewart, Stockton, Sumner and Wadleigh—25.

Messrs. Carpenter, Gordon, Wright and Ransom, who would have voted for the amendment, were paired with Messrs. Frelinghuysen, Hayard, Morrill of Vermont, and Salisbury, who would have voted against it.

Mr. Merrimon's amendment as adopted instructs the committee to report as soon as practicable a bill providing for the increase of national bank circulation so that a new bank volume thereof shall not exceed four hundred million dollars.

Mr. DAVIS moved an amendment instructing the committee to report so as to provide for free banking under the present National Bank laws. Rejected without discussion.

The question then recurred on Mr. Buckingham's motion to recommit.

Mr. CAMERON moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Executive business.

Mr. ANTHONY moved to adjourn. Lost—yeas 16, nays 50.

Mr. SCHURZ said he desired to speak at length on the financial question. The question then recurred on Mr. Cameron's motion for an Executive session. Agreed to.

The Senate then went into Executive session, and soon after adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE.

Messrs. BECK and CROSSLAND made personal explanations of their dialogue in the House yesterday, each disclaiming any idea of offending the other, and both making apologies to the House. The Speaker then proceeded to the call of committees of reports of a private character.

After some time being spent in the Committee of the Whole on the private calendar, the House took a recess to give opportunity for the introduction of Chief Justice Waite and the members of the House individually. The ceremony was performed by the Speaker.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of business connected with the District of Columbia. A bill authorizing the Washington City and Point Lookout Railroad Company to extend its line through the city of Washington, produced a good deal of agitation and excitement, it being opposed generally by the members from Pennsylvania, which opposition Mr. Hale, of New York, attributed to the influence of Tom Scott and the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company, while it was developed on the other hand that Mr. Chipman, the delegate from the District of Columbia, was Vice President of the company. The discussion was carried on amid great noise and confusion.

Mr. NEGLEY moved to lay the bill on the table. Pending a vote on that motion the House adjourned.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, February 20, 1874.

SENTENCE OF A COMMUNIST.

Daly, the Communist, who attempted to kill Major Pangborn, editor, in Jersey City, some time ago, has been sent to the State's prison for one year.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE FRAUD.

An investigation into the recent forgeries on the Stock Exchange, showed that the paper on which the communication purporting to have been made by President Orton was written, was taken from the Vice President's, and not from the President's room, and that the Toledo, Wabash and Western letter was not written upon the regular paper of the company. It is thought some printer was employed to print the head lines.

HOWES AND MACY.

The assignee of Howes and Macy announces that he will be able to pay creditors forty-five per cent. about the 2d of March.

The Legislative Reunion.

The Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press* writes: "As the time approaches for the assembling of the survivors of the Legislature of 1847-48, and thereafter, much interest is felt in the affair. The object and purposes of this meeting have been referred to in detail in this correspondence, and therefore need not be repeated, except to say now that all the preliminary arrangements have been nearly completed, and that the projectors of the meeting are sanguine of its complete success. The responses already had by those in charge of these preliminaries show that the attendance will be larger than was at first expected, and that the proceedings in the meeting and at the banquet cannot fail to be historically interesting. I will endeavor to furnish you with all that is of importance in connect ion with this affair."

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

The District Attorneyship.

Details of the Indian Bill.

Radical Changes in the Management of Indian Affairs.

Appointment on Lighthouse Board

VOTE IN THE SENATE ON EXPANSION.

Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio Roads Again in Dispute.

To-day's Session of the House for Business.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 20, 1874.

Candidates for District Attorney.

Senator Scott this morning visited the Department of Justice and had a lengthy interview with the Attorney General on the subject of the vacancy in the District Attorneyship for Western Pennsylvania. No new claimants for the position were discovered, those already mentioned in these dispatches constituting the principal competitors. From present indications there will be no nomination for some days, and no preference has yet been given for any candidate.

The Indian Bill.

The House Committee on Appropriations have so far completed the Indian bill that it will be introduced early next week. It will abolish all Indian superintendents except one for the Indian Territory, abolish eleven Indian agents and the same number of interpreters, and many farmers, mechanics and other supernumeraries. In regard to interpreters, the committee have discovered that agents have appointed their sons to these posts, while they are entirely incompetent. All these places have been rooted out. The Indian Commissioners are invested with absolute power in making contracts and settling claims. This takes that prerogative out of the hands of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs, and also clips the Secretary of the Interior of his supreme authority, the settlements being mainly intrusted to clerks, while their superiors carry out their decisions on the last two or three days of the session. Heretofore much favoritism and confident of uniform honesty, and have consequently changed the law. Parties dissatisfied with the action of the Commissioners in matters of contract appeal to the light before his election to the throne, the Captains of all the American vessels at Honolulu visited him and expressed a hope that the people would unanimously elect him. At Kanoolan on the 4th inst., a mass meeting declared in favor of David Kalakua, the most powerful chief in the nation, as Lunalilo's successor. Queen Emma, the widow of Kamehameha, is also named as a successor, and there will probably be a severe contest in the Legislature over the question.

Brutal Assault on a Young Lady at Warren O., by a Robber.

The Warren (O.) *Chronicle* gives the particulars of an assault upon a young lady, which was about as villainous as we are ever called upon to record. A man knocked at the door of Mr. John McKee, of Lordstown, and learning that no one but his daughter, aged twenty-one years, was at home forced his way in and robbed the house. He demanded money and watches, and when told that her parents had their jewelry and their watches with them, he began the infliction of bodily injuries upon her. Taking her by the hair, he beat her about the head, then at the station nearest available, and then left her to search through the house for valuables. In half an hour she recovered and crawled to the door, where her cries for help were overheard by a Thirty-villain, who assaulted her again in the most brutal manner, rendering her completely insensible before robbing her. When the parents returned they were horrified in seeing the actions of their daughter's dress and of her hair strewn through the room, and at first thought that she was murdered. The daughter was also found under a melodeon in a senseless condition, and as soon as she recovered she gave the following description of the marauder, for whom search was immediately made: A young man, probably about twenty-two years of age; face smooth and beardless; light colored hair, rather short cut; dark cloth cap, considerably worn; dark overcoat, rather long and a good deal worn; coarse boots. Thorough search was made for the man throughout the country, but no traces found. A reward of $500 has been offered for the arrest of the robber.

Crow Captures and Shootings.

A novel amusement, which is at present indulged in to a great extent in the upper part of Delaware, is crow shootings, as a substitute for pigeon matches. The rules and customs are the same in either case. The substitute was made out of a sort of humanitarian notion among the people, as well as to pecuniarily benefit them. Crows, dwelling about Ready Island, in the Delaware, from whence the crows are taken. This spot is the favorite roosting grounds of these birds, and that towards nightfall they congregate in large numbers. Owning largely ness overspreads the island, the catchers enter among the low trees with bags and capture any desired number, simply plucking them from the limbs like ripe fruit. The birds cannot fly in the darkness, and even if shaken from their roosts, they cling to the first object which comes within reach. It is said that a man shook nearly a bushel of crows from which the birds are shaken, with outstretched arms, will soon be covered with crows.

A young lady from Cambridge attended a ball in Boston where the floor was waxed. During the evening, while dancing in a waltz quadrille, the young lady slipped and fell, and the young man who accompanied her, in his efforts to save her from falling, placed his foot on her left side, and also slipped at the same time. When the young lady arose she placed her feet she was unable to stand, and was carried from the hall. It appeared that the young woman, in her effort to save her, pierced her side with one of his fingers in such a manner as to cause faintness and intense pain. She was taken home in a carriage, placed in bed, and a physician sent for, who pronounced her seriously injured internally. She never again came from that bed, and only a few days since was borne to the cemetery.

A STRANGE story reaches the *Homeward Mail* from India. It will be remembered that the steamer Dhoolia was wrecked in the Red Sea. Among the wreckage, sold for a mere song, was a box, supposed to contain nothing valuable, but afterwards discovered by Egyptians to contain damaged Indian postage stamps to the value of about four lacs of rupees (£40,000). The stamps had been manufactured in England for the Indian postoffice and sent out as a cargo with no proper description for declaration of value. These stamps are finding their way into India through various channels. They would have been no loss to the country if they had been at the bottom of the ocean; but, being found and sold, are likely to cost the government of India little short of £40,000.

Important to Grocers.

Dealers that have not received a copy of my circular and prices current will please send in their names at once. Sent free to dealers by mail.

T. C. JENKINS,
Checkered Front, Pittsburgh.

CHEAPEST
Flour and Grocery House
IN PITTSBURGH.
MACKEREL.
Mess No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3.
Barrels, Halves, Quarters and Kits.
White Fish, Lake and Labrador Herring.
CODFISH, SMOKED FISH.
Complete Line Groceries, Flour and Roasted Coffee.
☞No Retail Store connected with this establishment.
Orders by Mail Filled at Lowest Rates.

TEMPERANCE CAMPAIGN.

Zanesville, Ohio.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ZANESVILLE, O., February 20, 1874.

The raid on the whisky shops by the ladies of McConnellsville continues, with a prospect of success. All the druggists have signed the pledge required of them.

Springfield, Ohio.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

SPRINGFIELD, O., February 20, 1874.

The first saloonist to surrender is George Miller, proprietor of the "Shoo Fly Garden," who has bound himself to spill his liquor into the street at 2 P. M. to-morrow. Several others are ready to follow. The pastor of the Catholic church has addressed his people in a temperance sermon, and a society is to be formed in the church. Three hundred women visited the saloons to-day.

Wellsburg, West Virginia.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LAGRANGE, O., February 20, 1874.

The women's temperance movement is onward and eastward. Some ladies of Wellsburg, West Virginia, inspired by the example of their sisters in Ohio, inaugurated the movement in that place, and this afternoon visited the saloons, made a very strong appeal, and prayed with the proprietors, who treated them with kindness and courtesy. The women engaged in the movement are of the highest character. It is said they will have many accessions to their ranks by to-morrow, if the saloon keepers do not surrender. It is the great theme of conversation on the streets and in the stores this evening.

Philadelphia.

NEW YORK, February 20.—A Philadelphia dispatch says: Preparations are making in that city for a great religious revival, to be followed by a crusade in the interest of temperance, in which all Evangelical churches will engage.

Columbus.

The ladies' prayer meeting now being held daily, preparatory to a more active movement on the liquor dealers, is growing day by day, and much interest is manifested. No plan of campaign is yet decided on, although it is asserted that a plan similar to that adopted at Hillsboro is being much discussed. The general meeting of next Tuesday will decide the plan to be observed.

Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, February 20.—A *Gazette* Hillsboro special says Judge Steele to-day dissolved the injunction restraining women from praying in front of Dunn's drug store, on the ground that Johnson, the owner of the premises, was improperly joined with Dunn, the occupant, as plaintiffs in the case. An *Enquirer* special says the plaintiffs appealed to the higher court and restored the restraining order.

Xenia reports five saloons closed up to this evening. One saloon keeper came out of his den to-day bearing the white flag in token of surrender. Each surrender is made the occasion for a jubilee.

Oxford has nearly all places of business closed.

In Dayton the women organized for work to-day. Reports from there conflict as to the favor the plan meets.

Terre Haute, Ind.

TERRE HAUTE, February 20.—A very large, harmonious and enthusiastic temperance mass meeting, held here to-night, was addressed by ex-Lieutenant Governor Cumback and B. C. Hobbs.

New York.

NEW YORK, February 20.—It is said that three thousand women of this city have offered their services since Sunday to the conductors of the Union Temperance prayer meeting to inaugurate the war against King Alcohol. The Brooklyn Women's Temperance Society to-day resolved to call a public meeting to devise means to prevent liquor selling on Sundays. A large number are in favor of adopting the plan resorted to in the West.

Jeffersonville, Ind.

JEFFERSONVILLE, February 20.—The ladies of Jeffersonville, Indiana, visited several saloons and grocery stores to-day, but without apparent results. The movement will be inaugurated in New Albany on Monday.

LOCK HAVEN.

Close Vote for Treasurer—Fireman's Ball Blind Tom.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LOCK HAVEN, PA., February 20, 1874.

A second official count of the city vote gives Yardley one majority, and Batcheler will have to submit. A threatened election contest will, therefore, not take place.

The Cataract Engine Company give a magnificent ball to-night, the proceeds to pay for a team for the engine.

Blind Tom appears at the Opera House next Tuesday evening.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Suit for Subscription to Stock.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LAURENCE, O., February 20, 1874.

The Circuit Court has been in session this week in Wellsburg. The case of the Pittsburgh, Wheeling and Kentucky Railroad against Samuel George, President of the Bank of Wellsburg, was brought to recover of George one thousand dollars subscription to the capital stock of said road. It was regarded as a test case, as quite a large amount of stock had been subscribed for which suits have been brought. The jury failed to agree, standing five for and seven against recovery. Daniel Lamb and J. Pendleton, of Wheeling, attorneys for the road; Col. Lloyd, of Steubenville, and J. Hanson Good, of Wheeling, for defendant.

The Southern Railroad.

CINCINNATI, February 20.—Eighteen bids were opened to-day for the superstructure of the bridges on the Southern Railroad, from South Danville, Kentucky, to the Tennessee State line, but awards were not made.

An Improved Illuminating Gas.

The London *Mining Journal* of a late date speaks highly of an apparatus recently devised and tested in London for the manufacture of illuminating gas. It is described as simple in construction, yet of extraordinary efficacy in accomplishing its work of doubling the volume of gas now obtained from a given amount of coal, rendering the gas of a much higher illuminating power, while its purity is increased, the process also effecting a great saving in labor. The virtue of the process is in saving much of the refuse which now goes to waste, decomposing it and uniting the constituents with the gas given off by the usual process of roasting the coal in the retort. Three retorts of iron or clay, though a greater number may be employed if required, are placed in the ordinary manner in a setting, and coal is charged into the bottom one, the upper retort being filled with chalk and the upper one with coke. The three are connected, so that the gas eliminated in the lower one is made to pass through the chalk and coke retorts, and finally, after leaving the coke, into the hydraulic main. The gas, as it issues from the bottom retort, coming through the incandescent chalk, in the middle retort, has its constituents, tar and ammonical water, lost in the usual process, converted into illuminating gas. A steam boiler is heated by the same furnace which is used for the retorts (and the fuel for which may be said to cost nothing) is placed alongside, and is conveyed from it into the intermediate retort through a pipe placed in the fire and of sufficient length as to thoroughly decompose the steam, resolving it into its gaseous constituents, which act as carrying gases. This drives the tar and liquor out of the chalk, the carrying gases and the dry steam reabsorbing them and carrying forward the highly-illuminating properties they are known to possess. The coal-gas and water gas combined then pass through the incandescent coke in the top retort,

The Daily Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1874.

PHILADELPHIA city bonds went up to 102½ on the Stock Exchange as soon as it was known that STOKLEY was elected Mayor. That is an indication too plain to be mistaken.

THE missing iron-clad, the Dictator, rode out the storm successfully, notwithstanding the many fears for her safety that were indulged in. Dictators are not so easily got rid of.

INSANITY, says the *Journal of Mental Science*, is a rare thing among savages. As the savages, however, keep no statistics, it is impossible to say whether insanity is rare among them or not.

IN MEMORY of GEORGE WASHINGTON, notes falling due on Monday next must be paid to-day. For authority see the act of Assembly on the subject; which, when found, make a note of it.

THE *Post* evades our polite inquiry concerning the views of its party with respect to the Louisiana imbroglio. It is waiting to see what kind of a *chute* the leaders, whose opinions it reflects, will take, before pronouncing in favor of the channel. Cautious, but wise.

SPEAKING of the results of the Philadelphia election, the New York *Tribune* says: "Col. MCCLURE does not hesitate at making the most sweeping accusations of fraud against his opponents." Of course he does not. It is an old trick of his. Has the *Tribune* any knowledge of the habits of the cuttle-fish?

THE finances of the country are gradually assuming a healthier tone. The current receipts of internal revenue are now up to, if not in excess of, the amount received before the panic. The receipts then averaged $8,700,000 per month. About $8,800,000 are expected from this source during the present month.

WE ARE prepared to discount, largely, the reports from Harrisburg that the bankers were sending out circulars to raise money to secure the passage of the bill to repeal the Usury laws. So far as we have been able to see, the bankers are not all on that side, and therefore not likely to engage in any such foolish effort.

THE COMMERCIAL says that "the devils, in the time of Christ, cried out, 'let us alone.'" But just now it is the devils who are playing the *role* of evangelists.—*Pittsburgh Post.*

We submit that—notwithstanding the alienation of feeling exising between the *Post* and *Dispatch*, this is really a little too severe on the part of the former toward the latter.

THE House of Representatives at Washington is apparently desirous of restoring the ranking privilege, but has not the courage to do it. The members of Congress had better think over the matter carefully, before attempting it. The fate which befel the back-pay swindle will assuredly follow a restoration of the franking privilege.

RUSH R. SLOANE, the defaulting and run-away Railroad President, was a Democratic candidate for Congress, in Ohio, in 1872. He called himself a "Liberal Republican," and severed his former connection with the Republican party because it was so corrupt, you know. He has now forfeited bail upon charges of appropriating railroad money to his own use.

THE Commissioner of Internal Revenue is engaged in making preparations for the collection of spring taxes, and circulars will shortly be sent to Collectors of Internal Revenue for posting in public places, notifying cigar dealers, liquor sellers, and others, to take out their annual licenses. Those classes in Pittsburgh whom this matter concerns should, therefore, make their own preparations accordingly.

THE *Dispatch* says it does not comprehend the meaning of our statement that, in its recent discussion of certain matters pertaining to and growing out of the war, "the moral element was totally ignored." Exactly as we supposed. The very moment you take any question from the low levels of profit and loss, and lift it into the domain of the higher conscience and will, you get altogether beyond the range of the *Dispatch*.

HOW THIS world is given to lying! Here is the *Gazette*, for instance, saying:

"The COMMERCIAL folded its arms, in quiet impotency, while the municipal canvass was pending."

The editor of the *Gazette* (if that paper *has* an editor) knows this to be untrue. The COMMERCIAL supported Mr. MCCARTHY heartily, from the start, as its columns abundantly testify, and it neither asked nor received any compensation for its services.

A BILL has been introduced in Congress to make unauthorized expenditures of money by officials a misdemeanor, and to prescribe a penalty therefor. The principle of the bill is very important, and could it be carried out it would stop many leaks in the Treasury; but experience has shown that the only real safety for money lies in trusting the minimum amount practicable to officials, the temptation to misspend and the difficulty of discovery and conviction being too great.

AFTER indulging an immense amount of irrelevant oral and written gabble concerning the eligibility of women to places on the Boston School Committee, the people of that classic burgh have at length taken hold of the question at right angles, by requesting the State Supreme Court to pronounce an opinion on the legal aspects of the case. This will bring the matter directly to an issue. If it shall be found that Constitution or law stand in the way, the next steps will have to be taken by the Legislature, and in the present state of popular feeling on the subject in Massachusetts, it can hardly be doubted that they would be taken promptly and effectually.

THE general conclusions to be drawn from the tone of our principal exchanges concerning the industrial and financial outlook, are that business throughout the country, particularly in the leading manufacturing districts of New England and our own State, is now in a good condition, and that many of the industries are in as flourishing a situation as before the panic. Nearly all the cotton factories are running on full time and at a profit. The woolen manufacturers, owing to the enforced idleness of a large class of consumers of heavy goods and the mild weather, are in a less prosperous condition. The vast boot and shoe business of New England, although now in a fairly prosperous condition, was materially interfered with by the same influence noticed in regard to woolen goods. At the leading money centers of the country, the month of January showed a marked improvement over that of 1873. On the whole, the prospects are every way hopeful and encouraging.

THE Democratic State Convention of Kentucky assembled last Wednesday, to nominate a Clerk of the Court of Appeals. The manifestations of rebel feeling displayed on that occasion are respectfully commended to the consideration of the Pittsburgh *Dispatch*. Of course the nominee was an ex-rebel soldier; but the special significance of the proceedings consists in the fact that in the speeches which preceded and followed his nomination, he was extolled to the skies for his gallantry as a rebel, and of his receiving his wound in the service. "If," says a correspondent, "this was not a rebel convention, then there was never one held in South Carolina. The candidate was elected because he was a rebel, and nothing else." All over the ball could be heard the calls of, "Bring out the lame Confederate, we'll show 'em;" "Let the soldier boy come," etc.; after which the convention adjourned with yells of rebel exultation. And yet our contemporary deprecates the slightest exercise of vigilant loyalty on the part of the people of the North, on the ground that it hurts the sensitive feelings of just such tender-hearted patriots as these.

RAILROAD INDEBTEDNESS.

In the general direction of economy and the attempt to increase the revenues by rigid collections, the important question of nonpayment of debts due the government from Pacific railroads is again brought up. The Washington correspondent of the New York *Journal of Commerce* has compiled a statement showing that the account of these roads with the government is as follows:

THIRTY-YEAR BONDS BEARING INTEREST IN CURRENCY AT SIX PER CENT, ISSUED TO PACIFIC RAILROADS.

Name of Road's.	Principal outstanding.	Interest retained by transportation, etc.	Interest paid by the United States.	Balance of interest paid by the United States.
Central Pacific	$25,885,120 00	$ 811,275 24	$ 7,966,572 63	
Union Pacific	27,236,000 00	1,234,502 03	1,261,901 08	
Central Branch	1,600,000 00	1,751,592 44	1,741,146 18	
Union Pacific, Western Pacific	1,970,560 00	25,643 27	612,164 99	
Sioux City and Pacific	1,628,320 00	9,367 09	555,982 74	
Totals	$58,625,513 00	$4,832,055 21	$12,596,536 41	

In addition to this the accrued interest on the first of February was $323,117 26. None of these railroads have yet paid the government a dollar in money on any account, although their interest is payable semi-annually. It cannot be complained that the companies are poor, for according to official figures they have made a good deal of money. The most sanguine friends of the Union and Central Pacific Railroad companies did not predict the financial success they have already achieved. The total bonded debt of the Central Pacific is $80,441,800, and that of the Union Pacific $76,166,024, making an aggregate of $156,607,824; while the earnings of the two roads, for the past four years, have been equal to six per cent. on $224,000,000. It is believed that, in two or three years, with careful and honest management, the net earnings of the Union Pacific Railroad should be $12,000,000, which would pay all the interest, leaving the land grants to take care of the land grant bonds, and leave a handsome sum to divide on the stock. The subject is one that commends itself to the advocates of the Pacific railroads, as well as to the advocates of payment of interest due on the subsidy bonds, and honest management of those railroad enterprises which partake of a national character.

A RATHER INJUDICIOUS LETTER.

While in this country, or after his return home, Professor TYNDALL received the following epistle from an American "clergyman of twenty-eight years' service:"

J. Tyndall: How it ought to "heap coals of fire on your head," that, in return for your *insults to their religion*, in your various works, the American people treated you with distinguished consideration. You have repeatedly raised your puny arm against God and His Christ! You have endeavored to deprive mankind of its only consolation in life, and its only hope in death, (*vide* "Fragments of Science," etc.,) *without offering anything instead*, but the dry light of your molecules and atoms. Shall we praise you for this? We praise you not!

Do I hate them, O Lord, that hate Thee? Every *suicide* in our land (and they are of daily occurrence) is evidently the effect of the bestial doctrines of yourself, Darwin, Spencer, Huxley, *et id omne genus*.

"The pit is digged up for you all". "Woe unto you that laugh now, for you shall mourn and lament."

With the supremest contempt, I remain,

* * *

Prof. TYNDALL, as perhaps in duty bound, showed this remarkable production to Mr. SPENCER, and, we may suppose, to the other philosophers denounced in it by name, and Mr. SPENCER has thought it worthy of publication, in illustration of the principle that "frequent repetition of Christian doctrines does not conduce to the growth of Christian feelings." This was certainly a terribly severe mode of rebuking the author of the letter. It is besides so rigorously Christian that the most unsympathetic reader must feel some thrill of compassion for the unknown "clergyman of twenty-eight years' service." To find himself seized by the philosopher in so unexpected a manner and so luminously shown to have forgotten or never learned the lessons he had been teaching during so long a time, it is pitiful. Seething a kid in its mother's milk was tenderness in the comparison, and yet nothing can be objected to the punishment on the score of cruelty. It is entirely Christian.

We fear, however, that the philosopher is unjust, of course unintentionally unjust, to the divine. Indeed, we feel quite sure that if the philosopher had succeeded in putting himself in the clergyman's place, (as of course he must have tried to do when so brilliantly exemplifying the Christian spirit,) he would have been less impressed with the unchristian character of the letter. On reflection he would probably have perceived that a "clergyman of twenty-eight years' service," sincere in the profession of his faith, devoted to his ministry, and accustomed almost exclusively to its appropriate meditations, could not reasonably be expected to regard the anti-christian application of scientific research and discovery with much other feelings than those which the letter so frankly expresses. The man who thus wrote of course did not believe in the reality of scientific truths incompatible with the scriptural revelation, and for the anti-scriptural interpretation of natural phenomena he held Prof. TYNDALL responsible. Most likely he held him responsible for much more, for perverse speculations and reasonings on topics of transcendant, practical import, which the Professor presumed to discuss without having given them any such careful examination, as in subjects strictly scientific would alone have entitled him to be heard. That Professor TYNDALL, truly eminent as a physicist, is fairly open to the reproach of dogmatizing on the highest subjects with imperfect knowledge, will be questioned by no reader of his writings, for some of which, as an English reviewer lately remarked, the only apology that can be alleged is his limited early education and narrow culture.

Taking such and other considerations that might be mentioned into account, one can understand how the "clergyman of twenty-eight years' service" might write as he did in the spirit of honest, however mistaken, Christian zeal. Great divines and devout laymen, Dr. JOHNSON, for instance, used to hold it a duty in Christian controversy to treat sceptical opponents with insolence and contempt, and a "clergyman of twenty-eight years' service" is old enough to have imbibed in his youth the spirit of those sound divines. But while unwilling to admit that the letter is unchristianlike, we are not prepared to say a word in vindication of its wisdom. It seems to imply on the part of the author miserable ignorance of the general character and spirit of the men whom he revilles, as well as unacquaintance with the mental attitude of his educated contemporaries towards scientific research and its results.

Such narrowness of view, however, the result of intellectual one-sidedness and the indulgence of prejudices appears to be about as common among those who pride themselves on their advanced views as among those who insist on the old paths. Thus, whoever looks into newspapers of a certain class may be surprised to learn that the editors have no respect for those who feel bound to be religious in this way. Though they are, for the most part, good citizens and exemplary people, in every sense; though with them originate nearly all the benevolent and beneficent movements of the time, which they sustain with their means, hypocrisy and cant are supposed to be leading traits in the nature of most of them, because those who thus judge them fail to comprehend their point of view.

In the same spirit a Chicago editor, who evidently plumes himself on his power to see into millstones, passes a sweeping sentence of condemnation on nearly all the sermons preached last Sunday in that great city. One of the preachers discoursed on the leaven of grace, telling how it pervades the moral nature; another discoursed on the intermediate state; another on the glory of the Lord's house; another dwelt on life in the Lord, and still another tried to tell his hearers how to serve the Lord. But all these topics seem to our sagacious contemporary worn out and of no interest; while a discourse by Mr. GERALD MASSEY delivered on the same day in the same city was "crammed with vital, practical teachings." He demonstrated the unity of the human family and proved everybody responsible for the poverty and sins of the world. We have nothing to say in disparagement of the latter discourse, but why commend its utility and mention the others with contempt? In fact, to do so is mere narrowness and prejudice. To every Christian audience all the other topics named are full of interest, and the preaching of them and other kindred themes has, in all Christian ages, not only cherished spiritual life and vigor, but stimulated virtuous conduct in millions of men and women. However good Mr. MASSEY's discourse may have been, to a very large proportion of those who attend church, it could have ministered neither edification nor consolation in the struggles of life.

MOIETIES TO INFORMERS.

The resignation of JAYNE, the Treasury agent at New York, following immediately after the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury to Congress showing that JAYNE had pocketed about a quarter of a million of dollars as his share of the penalties exacted from persons offending against the Revenue laws, is a good sign, and affords a hope that Congress will wipe out the whole system of moieties to informers.

The original purpose of the moiety system was to stimulate the customs officers to greater watchfulness, inasmuch as the informer was entitled to one-half of the penalty inflicted upon all who attempted to defraud the government; but, however well the system may have worked when importations were comparatively small and the business of the country was on a limited scale, it works most unfairly, now, when the importations have grown enormously large, and the business of the country is so much extended. For the aim of the common informer, like JAYNE, is not to prevent or punish the ordinary small frauds upon the revenue, but to catch the large importers in some merely *technical* offense, and then to insist on the infliction of the severest penalties.

JAYNE made his quarter of a million, in this way; and although the government got another quarter of a million, in the cases prosecuted by him, in addition to the revenue regularly collected from the offenders, it was practically none the better of the prosecutions. The $250,000 pocketed by the informer did not come out of the Treasury, but out of the pockets of the merchants detected in violating the Revenue laws, and the government Treasury was replenished to a similar extent from the same source, yet the proper enforcement of the Revenue laws was not increased, nor was smuggling, or other kinds of fraud, prevented. The offenses prosecuted were not real, actual attempts at fraud, but mere technical violations of the laws, involving but a few dollars of actual revenue; and hence their prosecution simply worried and annoyed those who were made victims, without contributing a particle towards a better observance of the law. And this is the natural tendency of all high rewards. Where heavy penalties are prescribed for offenses, and the informer gets half for his agency in ferreting them out, he does not care a bawbee whether the offense is a willful or technical one, so that he gets his moiety. Some men disobey the laws wilfully and designedly, others carelessly and ignorantly. The former deserve the severest punishment, and the latter may not deserve any; but both are alike to the informer. If he can trace the offense home, no matter how innocently it may have been committed, he is entitled to his moiety. The history of the prosecutions in New York and Boston will show that nine-tenths of the alleged offenses were unintentional; yet the offenders have been forced to pay millions in penalties, one-half of which has gone to the informers, and the other half into the Treasury.

It is high time, therefore, to abolish the whole system. The regular officials of the government ought to be able to enforce its laws without the aid of spies and informers; and when JAYNE gets ashamed enough to resign, Congress ought to have pluck enough to deprive his whole tribe of their vocation.

THE FINANCES.

The Senate has so far voted down all propositions looking towards free banking, but has given no decisive indication of its purposes.

Mr. SHERMAN's scheme to transfer to the West and South from New England the right to establish new national banks with capital to the extent of $25,000,000, reducing to that extent the amount now invested in national banks in the New England States, does not strike us favorably as a measure of relief to the Southern and Western States. These sections need more capital much worse than the right to invest it; and until they have it, there seems but little use in devising ways and means for employing it.

Let us suppose either Mr. CAMERON's method—that of free banking—to be adopted, or Mr. SHERMAN's: what good would either do to the South and West? If Mr. SHERMAN's plan be adopted, has the South and West got the United States bonds necessary to establish banks with an aggregate capital of $25,000,000? If they have, they can obtain all the money they need by selling them in New York, and much more than they can get by issuing national bank notes upon them. Have they, on the other hand, sufficient money or commodities to buy the bonds necessary to start the new banks? Then they already have as much money in hand as the banks could give them. It does not seem to us, therefore, that Mr. SHERMAN's plan can help the South and West one particle.

If Mr. CAMERON's plan, that of free banking, be adopted, the result will be the same, so far as the present local capital of those regions is concerned. If they have the capital to start new banks, they do not specially need them, so far as the mere supply of money is concerned; and if they have not got it, they cannot start them. There is this difference, however: if banking were made free, Congress might add on SHERMAN's plan of equalizing the distribution of banks, according to population. In that case, whatever new banks were started, would have to be started in the South and West, the East having already more than its share; and Eastern capital, inclined to engage in banking, would thus be driven to the more needy regions for employment in that direction.

It is plain that the mere right to engage in banking carries with it no benefit, unless the needed capital can be secured with it. Mr. SHERMAN may ask, indeed, why banking capital from the East would be more apt to migrate under free banking than under his scheme; and we would answer, that as free banking has no limit, and your scheme has. Twenty-five millions is a small sum in banking, and capital is not likely to change its *habitat* except under strong inducement.

Upon the whole, then, we prefer the free banking plan, each State to have its proportionate share. We prefer it, not because we believe in expansion, but because it seems the only way out of present difficulties. The nation cannot be kept in suspense forever between rival financial systems. We must settle down upon something; and free banking seems to us the simplest, and the easiest understood plan. Congress must dispose of this financial question, in some shape or other. The people cannot longer be kept hanging by the eyelids. Let us have a solution of the problem, in some way, no matter how.

THE movement of progress is steady, and does not go by jerks and leaps. The world moves at about the same average rate, and if it is spurred temporarily into a faster gait, it is almost certain to be followed by a corresponding reaction of slowness. This hint seems apropos of the enthusiastic belief of many temperance reformers that the woman's movement for the suppression of the liquor trade is destined to lay the traffic by the heels. Excitement is almost always short lived.

The Centennial.

[From the Boston Post]

There can be no hesitation in any mind that entertains a sentiment of patriotism concerning the eminent fitness of making an impressive celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of American Independence. The centenary of the Declaration of a new nation ought to provoke the enthusiasm of all its people. The criticism which the Philadelphia project has provoked in some quarters would be liable to befall a similar scheme if proposed by another city, and it must be admitted at the outset that the spirit which is to make this affair a worthy success is something very different from the spirit of criticism and fault. There must be union, fraternal feeling, patriotic fervor, and generous enthusiasm, to insure for such an event a triumph commensurate with its inspiring idea. It is inevitable that there will be many things in connection with a commemoration of this sort which can properly presume upon no such high and honorable association, that stimulates to the greater care that they shall be disarmed of their power for mischief in the present instance. The resolution adopted by the State Senate, that "reasonable legislation" shall be favored by our Senators and Representatives in Congress to insure a fitting testimonial of the assertion of the Declaration and its blessings by the American people, certainly excludes all opportunity for improper influences to secure a foothold in its preparations. New York has held one meeting on the subject, and is expected soon to hold another, to do what it can to make this demonstration effective.

It is to be considered that there is not sufficient time now to rearrange the plan for a worthy celebration, even were it desirable. A change of any kind from the orginal programme would weaken and demoralize the whole. The one desirable point already gained during the discussion is that this is not to be a World's Fair. It is to be entirely national, not international. It will aspire to become a just and adequate representation of the condition of the national life and character at the expiration of a century of growth and development. It would be a perpetual reproach to the national name if the one hundredth birthday of the country's independence was suffered to go by without an appropriate testimonial. Massachusetts, of all the other States of the Union, would be untrue to the traditions of her character if she declined to support historic Philadelphia in this business. The two are bound together by the strongest possible ties of fraternity in all that pertains to the incidents of the adoption of the immortal Declaration. The heart of this noble old Commonwealth beats responsive to what Philadelphia projects in the name of an expanded and populous nation. It would be inconceivable that one of the oldest of the sisterhood of States, that bared her breast first in the conflict, and was singled out to receive the first blows that fell so heavily, should, at the end of a century, prove so forgetful of the circumstances of her origin and of the establishment of national independence as to churlishly decline to second whatever measure may be conceived and proposed for this great commemoration. By her presence at Philadelphia in the full strength and glory of her prosperity will Massachusetts only vindicate the memory of her self-sacrificing and noble ancestors.

"Seizing Papa" Ad Libitum.

It is said that Sir Walter Campbell, who was lately in a mercantile firm in New York, wished to marry an American young lady, of good position in the Empire State. Upon his applying to the young lady's father, the parent stated that he always referred these questions to his wife. The mother in her turn stated that she must refer it to the Duke of Argyll. The Duke pleaded that, considering his connection with royalty, he must consult his eldest son. The Marquis could do nothing without the Queen's consent. Her Majesty felt that the issue must be referred to the Duke of Saxe Coburg-Gotha, as head of the family. The Duke rejoined that since the recent changes in Germany, he looked upon the Emperor William as his sovereign, and must bow to his advice. The Emperor said he could do nothing without Prince Bismarck's opinion, and Prince Bismarck declared he had no opinion at all, one way or the other; and so the question—to marry or not to marry—was brought to a dead-lock.

Congress has just passed two important bills relating to United States laws. One amends the law so that the maximum penalty for manslaughter shall be twenty years, instead of ten. The second permits persons charged with crime to testify in their own behalf.

There is not a little anxiety pervading the cities of the Ohio Valley as to what they are going to do for ice next summer. There is very little put up, and not a third the usual quantity in the lake cities, and even that is of inferior quality.

The Massachusetts State Board of Education reports that the plan of having Superintendents of Schools has everywhere proved successful, and urges that it should be more generally adopted.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The question now is, what did Forney mean when, just before the Philadelphia election, he called McClure "the inevitable?"

In Mississippi, it is said, Admiral Semmes's book is a publication far more sacred than the Bible.

A Western paper says of the air, in its relations to man: "It kisses and blesses him, but will not obey him." Blobbs says that description suits his wife exactly.

Now pray don't. Rochefort thinks he will be pardoned in a couple of years, and he is planning to come here after that.

The Butlers will not be bottled. The notorious George H. has just made a strike for fame—with a cane.

Ypsilanti, Mich., affords endless opportunities in the way of orthography. During the last six months thirty-two different methods have found their way into the postoffice there.

The trade in corkscrews for private use is said to be rapidly increasing in Ohio.

Jupiter's moons may now be seen by the aid of a strong opera glass. Jupiter himself can see them without any glass at all.

Immigrants from Ireland are settling in North Carolina in large numbers, and the Legislature of that State is about to abolish the Fourth of July and substitute St. Patrick's day in its place.

There is only one stimulant that never fails, and yet never intoxicates—Duty. Duty puts a blue sky over every man—up in his heart may be—into which the skylark happiness always goes singing.

Some names. The Texas missionaries have established Sunday schools in Black Jack, Lazy Cove, Rat Skin, Coon Hollow, Wolf Creek, Sleepy Hollow, Bull Mountain, Smoky Hollow and Goose Creek.

Pluck. An American lady, a Mrs. Brewood, has, in spite of the season, recently made the ascent of the Faulhorn and Wetterhorn, and still more lately has attained the summit of the Jungfrau.

The annual report of the Boston Co-operative Building Company shows that the experiment of making the larger tenement houses habitable for quiet and orderly tenants, comparatively free from vicious associations, and at the same time safe as an investment, has been entirely successful.

There was a bell in a building burned at a recent fire in Providence that bore a date two years prior to the discovery of this continent by Columbus. It formerly called the inmates of a Spanish convent to prayer.

We are now not only supplying the United States with patent leather, but export it to London, Hamburg, Canada, West Indies, South America, Australia, China and Japan, and we seem destined to catch the loose trade of the world with it.

The Georgia Legislature has under consideration a bill making jurors judges of the law as well of the facts in criminal cases.

From English papers we learn that the Bessemer anti-sea-sickness steamer was to have made her trial trip last week. Eminent engineers and others identified with ocean navigation were invited for the voyage.

Rumors of a discovery of rich placer diggings in Montana have flown like wild-fire through the Territories and the border States, and caused a stampede among the classes first effected by that kind of intelligence. Two months ago the valley was a solitude, now it is swarming.

Beautiful. On the anniversary of Lincoln's birthday, last week, the pupils in the public schools of Buffalo were each presented with a memorial card bearing the inscription: "With malice toward none, with charity for all."

There is great and natural indignation in German money circles at the default of interest by the Kansas Pacific, the bonds of which were taken by the most conservative of the investing class.

The question "Does water intoxicate?" now worries Brownstown, Indiana, the argument being based on the fact of less drunkenness among the residents when four saloons were in full blast, than now with none.

The Pope is gathering all the sacred relics in from the various monasteries and nunneries where they have reposed from time immemorial, and placing them in the Vatican—so that they may be secure against possible desecration.

The new railway bridge over the Kentucky river is the highest on the American continent, being two hundred and seventy-five feet above low water. That is, it will be when completed. It is not yet begun.

Last week New York bought bonds largely from London, but now purchases are made here for shipment to Europe, showing that the tide has turned, and we witness the odd circumstance of bonds crossing the ocean both ways at the same time.

A citizen of South Bend, Ind., has invented a steam canal boat, with which he expects to "scoop" in the $100,000 offered by the Canal Commissioners of the State of New York for such an invention.

Indian meal as a fertilizer is enthusiastically recommended by a New Jersey farmer. He says it is superior to Peruvian guano and not half so costly. He has tested its properties on potatoes, grass and wheat with excellent results.

The statistics of Iowa show the singular fact that the greatest number of thieves and murderers have blue eyes.

The peach crop was destroyed in some parts of Western New York on the night of the 12th instant, the previous warm weather having swelled the buds.

The passengers on a train of cars in Rhode Island saw a man in a pond struggling for his life on Saturday night, whereupon the train was stopped, the passengers made a rush for the pond, and the man's life was saved by clinging to him a bell rope.

PERSONAL.

It is curious how persistently the newspapers mis-spell the name of the gentleman to whom it is said that Miss Nellie Grant is "engaged." His name is Saetoris—the newspapers have it *Sactoicora*. He is the son of Madame Saetoris, one of the most brilliant female writers in England. Though she has not written much, that little equals the best prose of the age. She is sister of Fanny Kemble Butler, and has the genius of the family.

A board of examination having found Col. Henry D. Wallen, Second Infantry, incapacitated for active service, by reason of "chronic cystitis, contracted while on duty as an officer of the army in the service of the United States," the President directs that his name be placed upon the list of retired officers of that class in which the disability results from long and faithful service or from sickness or exposure in the line of duty.

In 1844 the Czar of Russia was in Great Britain. In the year 1874, just thirty years after, it is to be honored by a visit from his son, the Czar Alexander. As there was a visit in 1814 from the first Czar Alexander, it would seem there is a regular series of thirty-year visits.

Apropos of "Leatherstocking," which has just been put on the boards at a New York theater, Fort Plain, a few miles from the scene of Cooper's novels, has produced a promising young sculptor, named Selwood, whose statuette of "Leatherstocking" in marble, just finishing, is pronounced a marvelous work of art. The boy is but about eighteen years of age, and the indications are that the lad will yet carve for himself a name more enduring than wood or stone.

Morgantown, Kentucky, has a little boy who, though seven years old, has never walked except with the assistance of his hands. He uses them in locomotion like a quadruped. No effort on the part of his family has succeeded in teaching him to walk as ordinary human beings.

Boston mediums declare that James Fisk, Jr., occupies his time in the spiritual world in discovering new planets. He was a seeker after dancing stars, whilst here.

A funny thing happened in Congress the other day. Sir Edward Thornton, the British Minister, came into the diplomatic gallery, and a member who spied him out was anxious that some guests of his in the other gallery should see the live lord. So he wrote a little note, saying: That old swell with the mutton-chop whiskers is Sir Edward Thornton," and told a page to take it up stairs. The page, who had a mixed notion who the note was for, and of whom it was about, marched straight to the diplomatic gallery and gave it to the "old swell" himself. Meanwhile our M.C., watching the progress of his note, was horrified to see it in the august hands of the nobility, and he rushed out frantically to swear at the poor little page. "Did he say anything?" he asked, as soon as he could get his breath. "Yes, sir," said the boy, "he told me to take it back to the gentleman who sent it, and to say it was a very good description."

What's in a name? is a question often answered by the trite reply, "letters," but there must have been something more in the name of John Laube, of Lauberfels, or else Captain Hazen, of the United States Army, would not have petitioned Congress for leave to resume it. He, being of noble German family, renounced his patronymic several years ago, in order to become an American citizen, and assumed the name of Rziha. He has since discovered that it was necessary for him to renounce his title only, and petitioned Congress for permission to resume his family name, a petition which has been readily granted.

The story comes from England that the mental disorder from which the painter Landseer suffered in his last days was caused by over indulgence in wine. The Liverpool *Post*, in stern morality, remarks: "It should not be either pretended or allowed to be thought that the calamity of mental overthrow falls, even upon genius, by a mysterious fate when it has been invoked by a faulty manner of living."

RELIGIOUS NEWS.

Rev. Alexander Clark will preach in Bellevue Methodist church, Sabbath.

Rev. A. W. Butts, pastor of Smithfield Methodist Episcopal church, will preach a sermon on Sabbath evening on "The Relation of Secret Societies to the Church and Moral Reform."

Rev. Wm. Collier, D.D., pastor of Connelsville Methodist church, is having a gracious revival. Up to the present fifty-eight persons have united with his church, and the work goes on.

A revival in the Methodist church, New Brighton, has resulted in the addition, we learn, of all the young people who were not united with other churches. Rev. Dr. Jones, the pastor, is doing a good work.

The revival at Beaver Methodist Episcopal church, Rev. Wm. Lynch pastor, is a most gracious work. It has had its influence over young and old.

Rev. Alexander Clark has an article this week's *Independent* reviewing the late "Amendment Convention" in this city.

The revival at Steubenville, Ohio, still continues. One church has received over one hundred members, while the revival influence has reached all the other churches in the city.

Rev. A. D. Brown, pastor of Bellevue Methodist church, near Elizabeth, Pa., is engaged in a good meeting. Thirteen have been received into the church.

It is said that one of the greatest revival influences ever felt in that community is being enjoyed by the people of Amity, Pa. Rev. J. M. Mason, pastor Methodist Episcopal church, in which the meeting is held, is laboring hard to build up the church, and is prospering.

Efforts are being made to induce Rev. E. K. Squire, D.D., to remain with the First Cumberland Presbyterian church, where he has been laboring for some years past. Hope he will stay.

The duty of ministers is to win souls to Christ, and feed them so that they may grow. To win members from other churches, is something sinners can do.

Rev. J. B. Lucas, pastor of the First Methodist church, Eighteenth street, South Side, will preach on Sabbath on "The Evidences of Christianity."

The Episcopal Convention at Milwaukee adjourned without electing a bishop.

Several religiously-inclined Chinamen have bought a building in San Francisco for $24,000, and turned it into a Joss house.

Rev. J. C. Willis, D.D., of Central College, Mo., has been elected Professor of Mathematics in Vanderbilt University.

Rev. Howard Osgood, D.D., has resigned the Professorship of Old Testament Interpretation in Crozier Baptist Theological Seminary, Pa.

Rev. G. C. Seibert was inaugurated, January 29, as Professor in the German Theological Seminary, Newark, N. J.

The Baptist denomination is to-day, numerically, seventeen times as strong in proportion to the population as it was one hundred years ago.

On Sabbath morning last, Rev. Joseph D. Wilson, of Calvary Protestant Episcopal church, Pittsburgh, delivered his farewell sermon, avowing his faith in the Reformed Episcopal movement.

Rev. A. M. Shipp, D.D., of South Carolina, has been elected Professor of Hermeneutics, &c., in Vanderbilt University.

Rev. Thomas O. Summers, D.D., editor of the *Nashville Christian Advocate*, has been elected Professor of Systematic Theology in Vanderbilt University. A capital selection. We congratulate the University.

The Fijian Christian converts number about 100,000.

The Old Catholics have now one hundred parochial charges in Germany, and sixty thousand enrolled members.

The Presbytery of Halifax have unanimously approved of the proposed union of the Kirk of Scotland with the Canada Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Waugh tells us of a converted Hindoo, who, when too weak to kneel to prayer, said: "I cannot pray, but I keep up a sweet talking with Jesus in my heart."

Rev. Newman Hall collected, while in this country, about $7,000 to aid in the erection of Lincoln tower, over the new Surrey chapel.

Rev. R. H. Williamson, rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal church at Wilkesbarre, Pa., has resigned his charge and announced his allegiance to the Reformed Episcopal Church.

An extraordinary revival, numbering already about one thousand converts, is reported in Derby, England, under the evangelical labors of a young, zealous and devoted Scotch Episcopal rector, a Rev. Mr. Douglass.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has convened a meeting of Bishops to be held at Lambeth Palace, on Tuesday, the 13th of next month, to consider divers weighty and important matters connected with the church.

The United Brethren this year celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of their church organization. It is proposed to secure centenary offerings to the amount of $500,000 for missions, church erection, and the Union Bible Seminary.

Thirty-one new Sunday schools were organized in California during the past year by Mr. Meserve, a missionary of the Sunday School Union.

Rev. H. C. Wiley, District Agent of the Presbyterian Church, South, has been appointed Superintendent for North Carolina by the American Bible Society.

The revival at Matoon station, Illinois Conference, Rev. Dr. W. R. Goodwin, pastor, has resulted in three hundred accessions, and the prospects are good for another hundred.

The *Western* announces the gift of three thousand dollars to the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, by Lyman Beecher, Esq., of Troy, N. Y. The draft was sent to Dr. Rust.

At a recent meeting of Presbyterians in London, Mr. Black, of Stratford, speaking of the remarkable influence exercised by Mr. Moody, said that to him it appeared as if Christianity went out of the tips of his fingers. He attributed a great deal of the success of these meetings to Mr. Sankey's singing.

J. S. Lemon, a prominent and well-known minister of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and who has been in poor health for several months past, died, recently, in Belmont county, Ohio, where he had been stationed for the last three years. He had been but a short time since returned from Florida, whither he had gone in hopes of repairing his health.

Dr. Nelson, of the New York Book Concern, while attending the session of the South Carolina Conference, made a misstep on the platform, and fell nearly four feet, striking a sharp corner with the whole weight of his body. He fainted soon after he was placed in a chair, and for some time felt the effects of his fall.

Messrs. Moody and Sankey show no present purpose of coming home, having accepted the invitation from the Presbyterians to visit London. They have, however, postponed their going there until the summer months, the demands upon them being so numerous from other places.

A Cadiz paper says: Rev. Dr. Holmes lectures at the Presbyterian church, Thursday, February 26, on "The Family and the Home." Throughout Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania the press and all the lecture-going people speak in the very highest terms of this lecture. It abounds with sparkling wit and genuine eloquence. The doctor is a complete orator, always instructing and delighting his audiences.

The ninety-fourth annual session of the Pennsylvania Conference of the United Brethren in Christ, was held at Mechanicsburg, Pa., February 19th. There are now forty-two annual conferences of this body in the United States, and one in Germany. The total number of ministers is 1,822; members, 127,661.

Vineland Methodist church, New Jersey, under the pastorate of Rev. Wm. Pittinger, formerly of the Pittsburgh Conference, was dedicated January 25th. The church cost twenty thousand dollars, and only six hundred dollars were needed the day of the dedication to complete and clear the church of debt. This church was begun ten years ago, when Vineland consisted of a few scattered houses in the wilderness.

On Sunday, January 18, an effort was made to free the Metropolitan church, Washington City, of a debt of fifty-five thousand dollars. After a sermon by Dr. Ives, President Grant gave one thousand dollars, and twelve others pledged similar sums, and also lesser amounts were given, making a total of about twenty-five thousand dollars. This is the extent of the church's ability, and an appeal is made to the Christian at large for help, inasmuch as the church was erected and largely attended by Methodists and other visiting strangers, and that it was originally erected for that special purpose.

The Fancies of the Sick.

A diseased liver, as the usual concomitant of a torpid stomach. There is no complaint to which humanity is subject which the dyspeptic does not at different times suppose that he has, or is about to have. The only way to disabuse the sufferer's mind of these fancies, which are realities to him, is to infuse life and vigor into his digestive organs, and the most potent preparation for this purpose is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. There is no affection of the stomach, no irregularity of the liver or disorder of the bowels, consequent upon indigestion, for which it is not an absolute specific. During the twenty-five years that it has been the standard tonic and alterative of America, millions of dyspeptics have recovered their health and the capacity to enjoy life by the sole aid of this wholesome and searching vegetable preparation. As an assimilant and an anti-bilious agent, a remedy for inactivity, debility, nervousness and mental fancies, there has never been anything comparable to it in any age or country.

MEDICAL.

Rheumatism and Gout.

Laville's, Laville's, Laville's, Laville's, Laville's, Laville's,

Dr. Laville's Great French Remedy

A SURE CURE.

Blair's Gout and Rheumatic Pills.

They not only give relief from the most intolerable pain, but when the patient has kept his bed for month, one box will frequently carry off the attack in two or three days; in many cases of extreme torture relief has been obtained in two or three hours. Kept and for sale at

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Special Bargains!

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Our Stock is Still Full and Complete.

MAN

FINANCE AND TRADE.

FRIDAY EVENING, February 20, 1874.

The financial news from Washington is encouraging, although very little headway seems to be made by Congress in the direction of a solution of the great problem before them. The inflationists seem much divided, and the conservatives are practising the wisdom of delay.

We say the report is encouraging from the result of the votes reported this morning.

The sweeping amendment to the bill of the Finance Committee which "reveals all acts of Congress which limit or may be construed to limit or restrict the entire amount of national bank notes for circulation, and provides that hereafter associations organized or that may be organized for carrying on the business of banking shall be free to establish and organize national banks with circulation at any place within the several States and Territories of the United States, upon terms and conditions as and subject to all restrictions and limitations provided by law concerning banks organized with the amount in circulation" was received by a majority of six.

The proposition to increase the national currency to $400,000,000 (an increase of $66,000,000), and to provide for convertible United States bonds, met with a like fate by a majority of four.

A resolution to instruct the Finance Committee to report a bill "providing for the convertibility of United States Treasury notes into gold coin or five per cent. bonds of the United States, and also for free banking under the provisions of the National Banking act," was passed without a call of the yeas and nays, a motion to reconsider was pending when the date adjourned.

During the debate Senator Conkling made a speech containing more truth than has been spoken for some time past, and in marked contrast to the vaporings of such economists as Logan and Ferry.

At Harrisburg the Usury bill is progressing, and we are glad to hear of there being the names now in favor of a "free interest" bill that were last year opposed to any change.

It is difficult to present any new arguments in favor of the proposed change in the law and the valid ones opposed to it. The friends of the old six per cent. law say that the new law is in the interest of the shylocks, money lenders and the banks.

We feel warranted in stating that the banks, as a body, feel little or no interest in the change the present law, as far as their business is concerned, which is chiefly in discounting commercial paper; the law is utterly disregarded and they charge their customers such rates as they see fit, or such as the market calls for, and there is not one case in ten thousand where the borrower takes advantage of the rate very allowed him under the Usury law; the penalty is so light that the lender universally accepts the risk.

When however, the law is considered with reference to borrowers on real estate for long periods, it is found to work very great hardship, and it is in the interest of the borrower that we plead for the new law.

When a long loan on real estate is offered the penalty of violating the Usury law now in force is so great that no lender will accept the risk of making a loan direct to the borrower at anything over six per cent. As money is at all times, except perhaps during the dull season of summer, in demand more than six per cent., some method of evading the law must be devised. So little is made to pass through a third party to sells the mortgage at a discount sufficient to make up the difference between six per cent. and the rate agreed upon. Where a loan of $1,000 is thus negotiated for five years at six per cent. interest, the borrower receives his obligation of $1,000, but $850 in money, which he pays $60 a year interest (about ten per cent.) and a bonus of $150 per thousand when his loan matures—or at a rate of interest in excess of 10½ per cent. No one who has any experience in the negotiation of mortgage loans can deny that the present law with great severity on the very ones it is intended to protect. Were it made legal to contract for money at rates up to ten per cent., the bulk of such loans could at most times of the year be placed at straight six per cent. interest.

Another form of the interest question which affects the banks is under consideration at Harrisburg, and it looks very much like preconcerted action on the part of our Legislature and of Congress to prohibit the paying or receiving of interest on deposits by banks, making companies or banking associations. The bill offered in the United States Senate by Mr. Jas. Bowlen, as an amendment of the Currency act, makes the penalty for violation equal to four times the amount of interest paid or received, and makes it the duty of the Comptroller of the Currency to cause suits to be instituted for the recovery of such penalties. The penalty the Legislature is not named, but the instruction to the committee having the matter in charge is that it shall be such as to prevent the practice. Mr. Bowlen's bill also stipulates that not more than one-fourth part of the amount of lawful money of the United States at any such association may be required to receive on hand shall consist of balances due to such association as is available in the redemption of its circulating notes from banking associations, approved by the Comptroller of the Currency.

The banks of the city will be closed on Monday, as it is a legal holiday. Paper matures Sunday and Monday must be paid on Tuesday. In New York State paper matures on Tuesday and Monday is not payable until Tuesday.

The following tables show the prices of gold, government bonds, and railway stocks, at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Chester S. Kaufman, broker, 96 Fourth avenue:

	Opened.	Closed.
1	120½	120½
5, 68, 1881, coupons	121	120⅝
6s, 1862	118	118
6s, 1864	120¾	120¾
6s, 1865	121	120¾
6s, 1867	119⅝	119⅝
6s, 1868	120⅝	120⅝
6s, 1868, registered	119⅝	119⅝
10s, 10-40s	112¾	112¾
10s, 10-40s, coupons	116	116
Currency 6s	116½	116½
Currency 5s	114¾	114

February 20, 1874.	10:30 M.	11:30 M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:30 P. M.
	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾
Western Union Teleg'h	78½	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾	78⅝
Pacific Mail	45¾	45¾	45¾	45¾	45¾	45¾
Adams Express		95½		95		94
Wells, Fargo & Co						
American Express		64½			64¼	
New York Central	104⅝	104⅝	104⅝	104¼		104¼
Erie	24¾	24¾		24¾		24¾
Michigan Central	90	90		90		90
Michigan Southern		81¾		81¾		81¾
Illinois Central		106½		106½		106½
Cleveland & Pittsburgh		93		93		93
Chicago & Northwestern	59	58¾	58¾	58¾	58¾	58¾
Do Preferred						
Rock Island	107¾	107¾	107¾	107¾		107¾
Fort Wayne	91	90¾	91	90¾		90¾
Toledo & Wabash		33¾	33¾	33¾		33¾
Toledo, Wabash & Western		33	33	33	33	33
Do Preferred						
Ohio & Mississippi	39	39¾	39¾	39¾	39¾	39¾
Chicago and Alton				113½		
Terre Haute, Hartford & Erie						
Do Preferred				28		28

—Robinson & Co., bankers, Fourth avenue, furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

Penna. R. R.	51¾
Penna. Scrip	97¾
Reading	23¾
Lehigh Co.'s N. J.	103¾
Catawissa Preferred	34¾
Little Schuylkill	60
Lehigh Valley	59
Cam. & Amb. R. R.	120
Northern Central Transportation	92¾
Philadelphia & Erie Transportation	43¾
Susquehanna Transportation	50¾
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis	79¾

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY COMMERCIAL, FRIDAY, February 20, 1874.

REMARKS—The weather to-day was dark and murky, with strong indications of rain, which, up to late hour in the afternoon, had not set in.

The market shows no new features worthy of special mention. Prominent dealers, however, assure us that "things are brightening up," and that ere long business will exhibit signs of new life and animation.

The rivers are still in good boating order, which is a marked effect upon trade generally.

The grain market remains quiet and unchanged in price, though rather weaker, and holders more anxious to sell. The receipts are light of all varieties.

The flour market continues dull and weak, in sympathy with the decline in the west. Holders, however, are of opinion that prices have now touched bottom, and are not disposed to reduce them further.

In the grocery line there is a probability of a further decline in coffee. Sugar and molasses are firm, and trade is reported better.

Provisions are reported in fair demand, both from city and country. The stocks are full and complete, and the tariff of prices quite unreasonably high.

There is a good demand for seeds, particularly for timothy, which meet ready sale at quotations.

The butter market is better supplied, but as yet prices show no signs of giving way.

Eggs continue in good supply, with sales at 20c per dozen for strictly fresh. No others desirable.

The hay market remains quiet; sales being made to quality and condition.

The cheese market rules firm, the late advance being fully maintained.

Below we give the receipts of produce for the past twenty-four hours:

Flour, bbls	1,742	Apples, bbls	288
Grain, sks	770	Wheat, sks	543
Meal, sks	138	Rye, sks	1,508
Potatoes, sks	3,421	Butter, lbs	86
Hides, No	200	Potatoes, bush	770

Below will be found the wholesale prices of the market, unless otherwise noted:

APPLES—Green $2 50@3 00 ₱ bbl; nice $3 50@4 00. ALE—$6 ₱ bbl; XX $9; India ale $10 ₱ bbl; Isaac's English ale, in kilderkins of 22 gals $22 75@23 00; 18's $20; 9's $10 75; bbls, 36 gals $12 75@13 00; in cases, 4 doz bottles $9 75; Wm. Young's India pale ale, in cases of 4 doz bottles $9 ₱ doz; Robert Voelcker's sparkling ale $9 ₱ doz; Robinson's stout, bottled by A Barker & ₱ doz; Barrett & Cooper's ginger ale, $7 25 ₱ doz; Bell, Hazard & Co's ginger ale, $1 75 ₱ doz. ALUM—Soda ash, contained 30@34; refined, 8c; alum, 2½c; pearl, 16c; arsenic, 5c; black lead 50c. ASHES, POTTERS'—Sales at 6@6½c ₱ gal. APPLE BUTTER AND EVAPORATED PEACHES—Retail dealers supplied at 8@9c ₱ lb; wholesale lots at 7½@8c. BACON—Sales of extra, ₱ lb, 12c; shoulders, sugar cured ₱ lb, 9½c; bacon shoulders ₱ lb, 8½c; breakfast bacon, sugar cured, 12½; dried beef, extra sugar cured ₱ lb, 16½c; bacon clear sides, 10c ₱ lb; bacon clear rib sides 9½c ₱ lb; rib sides 9½c ₱ lb; mess pork, new, $16 50; lard, prime leaf in tierces, ₱ lb, 10½c; refined do for summer use, in half bbls, 10½c ₱ lb; refined do for summer use, in pails 11¼c ₱ lb; ham sausage, 10c; case lard, in ₱ lb tin pails, 13½c; refined do in 6 lb pails, 12½c; refined, in 3 lb caddies, ₱ 12¼c; refined do in 5 lb caddies, ₱ lb 12½c. BUTTER—We quote choice table at 37@37½ ₱ lb; prime to choice 30@33c; fair to prime 26@28c; common to fair 12@16c. BEANS—Choice white navy at $2 00@2 50 ₱ bushel. BROOM CORN—Sales of red and red topped at 5½@6c; fair to good green 4½@5c; inferior 3½@3½c ₱ lb. BORAX—Prices unchanged at 25c ₱ lb. BROOMS—No 2, $2 ₱ doz; No 3, $2 50 ₱ doz; No 4, $2 ₱ doz; No 5, $2 25 ₱ doz; carpet brooms $3 ₱ doz; 10½ brooms and whisks $1 50@2 00. In a jobbing way, from store, 25@37½c ₱ dozen additional. BANNER BAKING POWDER—½ lb cans ₱ doz at $1 60; ¼ do $3; 1 lb do $5 50; 5 lb cans $27; 10 lb cans, $54 ₱ doz. CARBON OIL—Sales f. o. b. at works at 13½c with the usual advance on small lots from store. CANNED GOODS—Tomatoes, 2 lb cans, ₱ peaches, ₱ doz, $1 90; 2 lb pie peaches, 90@c. $1 50; Winslow's corn ₱ 1¾ $1 90 ₱ doz; Portland sugar corn $2 75 ₱ doz; 3 lb tomatoes, ₱ doz, $2 25@2 50; 3 lb peaches, ₱ doz, $3 50; 3 lb pumpkin, ₱ doz, $2 50. CHEESE—Market firm at the following quotations: Ohio factory at 15@15½c; to the trade, and 16¼ 17c in small lots; young America 15c; Nulmegric. Prime to choice Ohio Sweitzer 16@17c. CIDER—$6 50@8 50 ₱ barrel according to quality. CRANBERRIES—10 to $13 ₱ bbl; $3 50 to $4 ₱ box. CONCENTRATED LYE—Sales at $7 12½ ₱ case of four dozen pa kages. CRACKERS—Sugar biscuit, 11½c; ginger snaps, 12½c; oyster crackers, 7c; soda crackers, 7c; sugar crackers, 9½c; butter crackers, 7c; water crackers, 5½c ₱ lb. CEMENT—Louisville hydraulic cement, $2@2 25 per barrel; Pittsburg hydraulic cement, $2 25@2 50 per bbl; Rosendale cement $3 50@4; Youghiogeny, $1 25@1 50. DRIED FRUIT—Apples 8@10c; prime peaches, halves 14@15c; peeled 18@20c; blackberries 14@15c. DRESSED HOGS—Sales at 6½@6¾c ₱ lb. ROSE—Strictly fresh at 20@25c per dozen. Pickled not asked for. AXLE GREASE—Sales are reported for sales: Barrels ₱ lb 6c; ½ do ₱ lb 6½c; ¼ do ₱ lb 7c; kegs ₱ lb 8c; cans 3 lb ₱ doz $2 50. FISH—No 1 extra mess mackerel $36; No 1 mess mackerel $34; No 1 shore mackerel $23; extra No 1 bay mackerel $19; No 1 bay mackerel $17; extra No 2 mackerel $17; No 2 bay mackerel $14; large No 3 mackerel $12 50; No 3 mackerel $10; split Labrador herring $5@7; white fish $7 50@8; lake trout $7@7 50; large Georges codfish $7@7 50 ₱ 100; medium Georges codfish $6 50 ₱ 100; red herring, scales, $6@8 ₱ 100; No 1 $5 ₱ box. FEATHERS—No 1 18@30c ₱ lb; No 2 70@72c, as to quality and quantity. FLOUR—As above remarked the market is dull and drooping. We quote as follows: Pittsburg $5 25 ₱ bbl; Minnesota $7 25; Penn Mills $5 50; fancy Indiana $8 75; Kentucky, white, $8 50@8 75; choice Ohio $5 25; Minnesota, spring wheat, $7 25@7 50; Wisconsin, spring wheat, $7 25@7 50. Rye flour $5 50. Corn meal $3 50. Oat meal $8 00. GOOSEBERRIES—There is rather more activity in this line of trade. Prices, however, are unchanged, the following being the ruling rates:

Coffee—Green, choice, 24c; prime 23c; good 30@31c; fair 29@30c; Java 33 to 40c. Roasted coffee—In papers 35c; in bulk, 34½c; Java 42 to 43c.

Tea—Young Hyson, 50c@$1 10 ₱ lb; Gunpowder 50c@$1 25; Imperial, 50c@$1 25; Japan, 55c@$1 ₱ lb; Oolong, 75c@85c ₱ lb; fancy, $1 ₱ lb; Souchon 75@85c ₱ lb.

Sugars—Standard Ex. C, 10¼c; Standard B, 10¾c; Standard A, 10¾c; Standard hards, 11¾c.

Molasses—Strictly prime New Orleans, 75c; choice, 80c, and scarce; old or p. 65@70c, and little in market.

Syrups—Extra White Drips, 70c; Sugar Dirps, 65c; lower grades, 45@50c, as to quality.

Rice—Choice Carolina, 9@9½c; Patna, 8@8½c; Rangoon 8c.

Grain—We quote red winter wheat at $1 55@1 60 ₱ bush; white $1 65@$1 70. Oats 52@55c. Ear corn 67@70c; shelled 71@73c. Rye $1 00@1 05. Barley, No 2, $1 @$1 70.

Honey—Choice clover 40c ₱ lb; buckwheat 30@35c.

Hominy—Sales at $1 50@2 25 ₱ bbl.

Hops—1873's 45@50c ₱ lb; 1870's 35@40c; 1871's 15@20c.

Hay—Baled $18@22 ₱ ton; wagon $25@28.

Lard Oil—Winter strained 80c ₱ gallon; fall 75c.

Peas—$1 60@1 75 ₱ bushel.

Potatoes—Prime peachblows on track $1 30; store $1 35@1 40.

Poultry—Dressed chickens 10@12c; turkeys 15@16c; ducks 13@15c.

Rosin—No strained 80c ₱ gallon; fair 75c.

Peas—$1 60@1 75 ₱ bushel.

Potatoes—Prime peachblows on track $1 30; store $1 35@1 40.

Poultry—Dressed chickens 10@12c; turkeys 15@16c; ducks 13@15c.

Rosin—No strained 80c ₱ gallon; fair 75c.

Rice—$6 50@8 50 ₱ barrel according to quality.

Cranberries—10 to $13 ₱ bbl; $3 50 to $4 ₱ box.

Concentrated Lye—Sales at $7 12½ ₱ case of four dozen pa kages.

Crackers—Sugar biscuit, 11½c; ginger snaps, 12½c; oyster crackers, 7c; soda crackers, 7c; sugar crackers, 9½c; butter crackers, 7c; water crackers, 5½c ₱ lb.

Cement—Louisville hydraulic cement, $2@2 25 per barrel; Pittsburg hydraulic cement, $2 25@2 50 per bbl; Rosendale cement $3 50@4; Youghiogeny, $1 25@1 50.

Dried Fruit—Apples 8@10c; prime peaches, halves 14@15c; peeled 18@20c; blackberries 14@15c.

Dressed Hogs—Sales at 6½@6¾c ₱ lb.

Rose—Strictly fresh at 20@25c per dozen. Pickled not asked for.

Axle Grease—Sales are reported for sales: Barrels ₱ lb 6c; ½ do ₱ lb 6½c; ¼ do ₱ lb 7c; kegs ₱ lb 8c; cans 3 lb ₱ doz $2 50.

Fish—No 1 extra mess mackerel $36; No 1 mess mackerel $34; No 1 shore mackerel $23; extra No 1 bay mackerel $19; No 1 bay mackerel $17; extra No 2 mackerel $17; No 2 bay mackerel $14; large No 3 mackerel $12 50; No 3 mackerel $10; split Labrador herring $5@7; white fish $7 50@8; lake trout $7@7 50; large Georges codfish $7@7 50 ₱ 100; medium Georges codfish $6 50 ₱ 100; red herring, scales, $6@8 ₱ 100; No 1 $5 ₱ box.

Feathers—No 1 18@30c ₱ lb; No 2 70@72c, as to quality and quantity.

Flour—As above remarked the market is dull and drooping. We quote as follows: Pittsburg $5 25 ₱ bbl; Minnesota $7 25; Penn Mills $5 50; fancy Indiana $8 75; Kentucky, white, $8 50@8 75; choice Ohio $5 25; Minnesota, spring wheat, $7 25@7 50; Wisconsin, spring wheat, $7 25@7 50. Rye flour $5 50. Corn meal $3 50. Oat meal $8 00.

Gooseberries—There is rather more activity in this line of trade. Prices, however, are unchanged, the following being the ruling rates:

Coffee—Green, choice, 24c; prime 23c; good 30@31c; fair 29@30c; Java 33 to 40c. Roasted coffee—In papers 35c; in bulk, 34½c; Java 42 to 43c.

Tea—Young Hyson, 50c@$1 10 ₱ lb; Gunpowder 50c@$1 25; Imperial, 50c@$1 ₱ lb; Japan, 55c@$1 ₱ lb; Oolong, 75c@85c ₱ lb; fancy, $1 ₱ lb; Souchon 75@85c ₱ lb.

Sugars—Standard Ex. C, 10¼c; Standard B, 10¾c; Standard A, 10¾c; Standard hards, 11¾c.

Molasses—Strictly prime New Orleans, 75c; choice, 80c, and scarce; old or p. 65@70c, and little in market.

Syrups—Extra White Drips, 70c; Sugar Dirps, 65c; lower grades, 45@50c, as to quality.

Rice—Choice Carolina, 9@9½c; Patna, 8@8½c; Rangoon 8c.

Grain—We quote red winter wheat at $1 55@1 60 ₱ bush; white $1 65@$1 70. Oats 52@55c. Ear corn 67@70c; shelled 71@73c. Rye $1 00@1 05. Barley, No 2, $1 @$1 70.

Honey—Choice clover 40c ₱ lb; buckwheat 30@35c.

Hominy—Sales at $1 50@2 25 ₱ bbl.

Hops—1873's 45@50c ₱ lb; 1870's 35@40c; 1871's 15@20c.

Hay—Baled $18@22 ₱ ton; wagon $25@28.

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Poultry—Dressed chickens 10@12c; turkeys 15@16c; ducks 13@15c.

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Gooseberries—There is rather more activity in this line of trade. Prices, however, are unchanged, the following being the ruling rates:

New York Finance and Trade.

Gold Closed at 112⅜.

NEW YORK, February 20, 1874.

MONEY

easy at 4@5 per cent. Dry goods imports for the week $3,487,906. Customs receipts $630,000.

STERLING

dull and heavy at $4 84@4 84¾ for sixty days, and $4 87¾@4 88 for sight.

GOLD

closed steady at 112⅜, after selling at 112⅝@112⅜. Carrying rates 2@4. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $68,000. Clearings $21,000,000.

GOVERNMENTS

firm, with a good demand.

U. S. coupons, 1881	120⅞	5-20s, '67	120¾
5-20s, '62	118	5-20s, '68	119¾
5-20s, '64	120	10-40s	116
5-20s, '65	119¾	New 5s	114
5-20s, '65, new	119¾	Currency 6's	116¾

STATE BONDS

generally steady. Tennessee, old and new, strong and higher.

Missouri	94¾	Virginia, old	36
Tennessee, old	99	North Carolina, old	28
Tennessee, new	90	North Carolina, new	19
Virginia, new	42		

STOCKS

extremely dull; the discussions in the general list during the day were only ¼ to ⅝ per cent. Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis was exceptionally active, declining from 94 to 73, and advancing again to 84; this sharp decline and decided bear movement was due to the impression that the election was over, and that a compromise had been agreed upon. The agent of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, at San Francisco, has been instructed to materially reduce passenger fares to and from Japan, with a view to the successful competition with English, Peninsula and Oriental steamers. Sales between ten and two o'clock amounted to 74,000 shares, of which 23,000 were Western Union, 11,000 Union Pacific, 9,500 Wabash, and 12,000 Lake Shore. American District Telegraph stock advanced 2½.

Canton	70	St. Paul preferred	74½
W. U. Telegraph	76½	Toledo & Wabash	34
Quicksilver	22½	Toledo, W. & W.	53¾
Adams Express	95¾	Fort Wayne	92¾
Wells, Fargo & Co.	77	Terre Haute	14
American Express	64½	Do preferred	32½
U. S. Express	72½	Chicago and Alton	113¾
Pacific Mail	45¾	Do preferred	114
New York Central	104⅜	Ohio and Mississippi	34⅞
Erie	24¾	Ohio, Cin. and Ch.	94
Do preferred	76	Burlington & Quincy	114⅜
Harlem	133½	Lake Shore	81¾
Do preferred	131	Panama	31½
Michigan Central	90	Illinois Central	106⅜
Pittsburgh	87¾	Union Pacific	35
Northwestern	58¾	Central Pacific bonds	93¾
Do preferred	75¾	Union Pacific bonds	85½
Rock Island	107⅝	Hartford and Erie	2
New Jersey Central	107	Delaware and Lack	111¾
St. Paul	46¾	Bankers' bills	4 84

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

Chicago Market.

CHICAGO, February 20, 1874.

FLOUR—Market quiet and unchanged.

GRAIN—Wheat—demand fair and market firm; No. 1 spring $1 21@1 21¾; No 2, $1 18¾ cash, $1 19¼ seller March, $1 22¾ seller April; No 3, $1 14@1 15. Corn—demand active and prices advanced; No 2 mixed 37c cash, 37¼c bid seller March, 53¾c seller April, 69¾c seller May. Oats quiet and unchanged. Rye scarce and firm: No 1 regular 82½c; fresh 84@85c. Barley dull and unsettled; No 1, 70c; Northwesters $1 75; No 3, $1 56@1 57.

PROVISIONS—Pork dull and lower at $13 95 cash, $14 00 seller March. Bulk meats dull and lower; shoulders 5½c spot, 5¾c seller April; short ribs 7¼@7½c; clear 8¼c. Bacon—demand light and unchanged.

WHISKY—Demand fair and market firm at 95c.

New York Market.

NEW YORK, February 20.—Cotton weak at 16¼c. Flour steady; superfine western and State $5 20@6 20; common to good $6 90@7 00; white wheat extra $7 00@7 50. Whisky lower at 95@96c. Wheat in fair demand; No 2 spring $1 50@1 54; No 2 Milwaukee $1 55@1 57½c. Rye, barley and malt unchanged. Corn in buyers' favor; new Western mixed 72@75c; high mixed and yellow Western 74@76c. Oats quiet; mixed Western 60@62c; white 61@63c. Hay, hops and groceries dull and unchanged. Pork lower at $15 50. Beef and cut meats unchanged; middles lower; long clear 8¾c; short clear 8¾@8¾c. Lard lower; prime steam 9¼@9⅝c; refined 9¾@10c; May 9¾c. Butter firm at 25@38c. Cheese unchanged.

New York Live Stock Market.

NEW YORK, February 20.—Beeves—Receipts 598 head, making 2,600 for the last four days, against 2,590 same time last week. Trade dull and market weaker; selections of choice steers scarce; the offerings all sold; quality ranged common to prime; prices from $9 50 to $11 50, with a few tops $11 75a12 25.

Sheep—Receipts 5,600 head, making 15,670 head for four days, against 16,000 same time last week. Market largely overstocked, and nearly flat; no demand for ordinary sheep; less than one-quarter of offerings sold; extreme quotations $5 25@6 25 for poor to choice $6 75a7 87.

Swine—Receipts 1,700 head, making 11,330 for four days, against 13,250 same time last week. Nothing doing in live; dressed weak and unchanged at $6 75 at 7 50 for city, and $6 50a7 00 for western.

Buffalo Live Stock Market.

BUFFALO, February 20.—Cattle—Receipts 68 head; total for the week 5,468. No market to-day; yards clear of stock.

Sheep and Lambs—Receipts 900 head; total for the week 19,200, against 13,100 same time last week. Market dull and heavy; no sales reported.

Hogs—Receipts, including reported arrivals, 4,400 head; total for the week 15,600, against 22,300 same time last week. Market dull; no prime hogs offering, the bulk of fresh arrivals through consignments; Yorkers, $5 25a5 50; heavy hogs, $5 75a5 87½.

Cincinnati Market.

CINCINNATI, February 20.—Cotton dull at 15¾c. Wheat and corn quiet and unchanged. Oats steady at 46@48c. Rye firm at $1 01at 02. Barley steady at $1 87a1 87. Pork dull and declined at $14 75a15. Lard dull at 9c. Bulk meats 8¾c; kettle 9c. Bacon—the meats dull and lower; shoulders 8¾c; clear rib 7¾c; clear 10¼@10¾c. Bacon dull and unsettled; clear rib 8¾c; clear 9¾c. Hogs dull; light $5 25a5 50; heavy $5 90a6 15; receipts 2,600; shipments 1,020. Whisky strong at 95c.

Philadelphia Wool Market.

PHILADELPHIA, February 20.—Wool Circular. Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia double extra and above 56@57½c; extra 56@56½c; medium 55@56c; fine medium 52@53c; coarse 50@51c; Michigan and western fine 50@52½c; common 49@50c; coarse 47@48c. Combing washed 49@50c; coarse 47@48c. Canada combing 62@65c. Fine unwashed 56@58c; coarse and medium washed 55@56c; tub washed 54@57½c. Extra and merino pulled 45@50c; No 1 and superfine pulled 45@50c.

New York Dry Goods Market.

NEW YORK, February 20.—Commission houses are only moderately busy, but the jobbing trade shows continued improvement. Cotton goods in steady demand and unchanged. Brown drills were active. Cottonades in fair request. Garner's prints jobbing at 9c. Worsted dress goods in liberal request. Woolens not very active. Fancy cotton hosiery doing better. Foreign goods quiet.

Toledo Market.

TOLEDO, February 20.—Flour steady and in moderate demand. Wheat dull and lower; amber Michigan $1 47, seller May $1 56@1 57; white $1 52. Corn—demand fair and market firm; high mixed 44@44½c, seller May 48c; no grade 51c. Oats steady with moderate demand; No 1, 50c; No 2, 47c.

Baltimore Market.

BALTIMORE, February 20.—Flour dull. Wheat quiet; Ohio and Indiana $1 55a1 60. Corn dull and declining at 75c. Oats firm at 55@59c. Rye steady at 92@94c. Provisions dull; Pork $15. Bulk meats nominal. Butter scarce at 37@43c. Coffee unchanged. Whisky 89½@90c.

Nashville Market.

NASHVILLE, February 20.—Cotton dull at 12¾a 13¾c. Flour, grain and provisions quiet and unchanged. Whisky firm at $1 00.

Philadelphia Market.

PHILADELPHIA, February 20.—Flour and wheat dull and unchanged. Rye dull at 92c. Corn dull at 74@76c. Whisky steady at $1.

Oswego Market.

OSWEGO, February 20.—Wheat quiet; No. 1 Milwaukee $1 48. Corn dull and nominal at 80c. Barley quiet and unchanged.

$250,000 FOR $50!!

Fourth Grand Gift Concert!

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE

Public Library of Kentucky,

ON MARCH 31st, NEXT.

60,000 TICKETS, 12,0000 GIFTS!

LIST OF GIFTS.

One Grand Cash Gift		$250,000
One Grand Cash Gift		100,000
One Grand Cash Gift		50,000
One Grand Cash Gift		25,000
One Grand Cash Gift		17,500
10 Cash Gifts,	$10,000 each	100,000
30 Cash Gifts,	5,000 each	150,000
50 Cash Gifts,	1,000 each	50,000
80 Cash Gifts,	500 each	40,000
100 Cash Gifts,	400 each	40,000
150 Cash Gifts,	300 each	45 000
250 Cash Gifts,	200 each	50,000
325 Cash Gifts,	100 each	32,500
11,000 Cash Gifts,	50 each	550,000
Total, 12,000 Gifts, All Cash, amounting to		$1,500,000

THE CONCEPT AND DISTRIBUTION OF GIFTS WILL POSITIVELY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY TAKE PLACE ON DAY OF DRAWING. WHETHER ALL THE TICKETS ARE SOLD OR NO. AND THE LARGE GIFTS ALL PAID IN PROPORTION TO THE NUMBER OF TICKETS SOLD.

PRICE OF TICKETS:

Whole tickets, $50; Halves, $25; Tenths, or each coupon, $5; Eleven Whole Tickets for $500. Send for circular.

The time for the drawing is near at hand, and persons intending to purchase tickets have no time to lose.

THOS. E. BRAMLETTE,

Agent Public Library Kentucky, and Manager Gift Concert, Public Library Building, Louisville, Ky. ws

D. McMillan & Co.,

359 Liberty St., Pittsburgh, Pa.,

Have in Store for Sale WHEAT, OATS, CORN, RYE BALED HAY and STRAW; FLOUR, best brands WHITE and RYE FLOURS, APPLES, APPLE BUTTER, DRIED APPLES, DRIED CORN, CHEESE CIDER, BUTTER, EGGS, &c. &c.

TO ARRIVE:

5 cars White Oats;
1 car Amber Wheat;
2 cars Iowa Spring Wheat;
2 cars Rye;
2 cars Timothy Hay;
5 cars Prairie Hay.

CONSIGNMENTS SOLICITED

JOS. SPENCER. JAS. M'KAY. ROBT. LIDDELL R. WATSON.

Phoenix Steam Brewery,

SPENCER, McKAY & CO.,

MALTSTERS AND BREWERS,

Ale, Porter and Brown Stout

PITTSBURGH, PA.

ROBT. WATSON, Manager

FLOUR—

BEST BRANDS OF

Winter and Spring Wheat Flour,

In Store and to arrive. For sale by

D. WALLACE.

ESTABLISHED 1862.

PITTSBURGH COMMISSION HOUSE,

305 LIBERTY STREET.

HENRY REA, Jr.,

Receives and sells Butter, Eggs, Cheese, Grain, Seed, Lard, Bacon, Apples, Potatoes, Green and Dried Fruit. Farm and Garden Products. Correspondence invited. fs

Get the Best

HOWE STANDARD

SCALES

Warehouse and Mill Trucks, Tucker's Patent Shares, Pin, Grease and Fixtures. Beams Repaired.

W. A. McGLURG, 63 Wood st.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PIG IRON AND BLOOM MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, February 21, 1874.

By reference to report of sales made below it will be seen that the stand-off between sellers and buyers of pig iron still continues, and that with one exception the sales are confined to lots offered somewhat below the regular market price as heretofore reported.

This lot (at $31 50, 4 mos.) was no doubt, some favorite brand, bought by a party who does not want to change his mixture, for we are assured that no consideration lot can be placed at that price.

We cannot expect a much better market while there is such great uncertainty as to what policy the government will pursue on the currency question, as the business of the country cannot assume its usual course until that is determined.

The future price of pig iron depends greatly upon the price the furnace men may have to pay for ore the next season, and as that is not yet fixed we cannot expect much activity in the market, as no one is willing to either buy or sell for future delivery, even at present prices.

We are reported the following sales:

BITUMINOUS COAL SMALTED FROM L. S. ORE.

400 tons gray forge	39 00—cash.
200 tons gray forge neutral	31 50—4 mos
140 tons gray forge	31 00—4 mos
16 tons No. 1 foundry	32 00—4 mos

CONNELLSVILLE COKE.

200 tons gray forge	$29 50—4 mos
200

CITY MATTERS.

Letters Held for Postage.

FEBRUARY, 20, 1874.

	Cents.
Loyd, Wm., New Castle, Pa.	3
Ritenaur, Frank, Corlettsville, Pa.	1
St. Clair, Wm. C. Sommersville, N. J.	3
Sibley, E. C. Altoona, Pa.	1
Smith, Theo. P., New York	3

E. C. NEGLEY, Postmaster.

Christian Temperance Alliance.

The second anniversary of the Christian Temperance Alliance, of Allegheny county, will be held in the First Presbyterian church, Arch street, Allegheny, on Monday evening next at 7½ o'clock. The Revs. S. C. Jennings, an old temperance workr, W. J. Robinson, of Allegheny, and R. W. Pearson, of this city, will deliver addresses on live temperance topics. An interesting and profitable meeting is anticipated, and everybody requested to be present.

Fire in the Thirteenth Ward.

Shortly after eight o'clock last evening a frame building, owned by Mr. David Kirkwood, and located at the head of Twenty-ninth street, in the Thirteenth ward, caught fire and was burned to the ground. An alarm was given from box 64, but the firemen were unable to reach the building on the hill beyond the Western Pennsylvania Hospital. Three families occupied the premises. The cause of the fire was the explosion of a lamp when oil was being poured into it.

Fire in Allegheny.

Yesterday morning a fire, originating from a defective flue, broke out in the pottery establishment of Casper Kohlhas, on East street, Third ward, Allegheny. Owing to a delay in reaching an alarm box, the firemen did not arrive until the flames had gained too great headway to be controlled. The pottery establishment and an adjoining dwelling, owned and occupied by George Schmacker, were destroyed. The loss on the former is estimated at $2,500, insured for $2,100; and the loss on Schmacker's house and furniture amounted to about $1,500, fully insured. A son of Mr. Schmacker, who occupied the garret as a harness shop, lost about $900 worth of new harness.

Libel Suit.

W. D. Moore, Esq., Chairman of the Democratic County Executive Committee, whose "card," published prior to the late city election—relative to the ineligibility of Mr. Elder, Democratic candidate for Controller of this city, and directing attention to the fact that there was no Democratic candidate for Mayor in Allegheny city—called down upon his devoted head the wrath and indignation of the *Post*, has used the columns of that paper for libel, on the criminal side of the court. The suit was entered before Alderman Hager, and the defendants were held to bail in the sum of $1,000 each—James E. Hopkins, Esq., entering the requisite security. Mr. Moore was very roughly assailed, and, in his opinion, grossly libeled. The accused are to have a hearing on Wednesday next, at two o'clock.

Pittsburgher Accidentally Shot at Wheeling.

A Wheeling paper of Friday says: Thomas McGrail, a young man who came from Pittsburgh a few days since, was accidentally shot through the left thigh last evening about five o'clock, at the house of his friends in Centre Wheeling, near Twenty-third street, between Market and Chapline. The parties with whom he is stopping are also strangers in Wheeling, from Pittsburgh. The accident happened in this wise: The wife of his friend procured a pistol from an adjoining room to show it to him, and believing it to be unloaded, she carelessly raised the hammer while in the act of handing it to him, and the gun went off. The ball entered from the inside of the thigh, about the middle part, and passing around the thigh bone lodged near the surface of the opposite or outer side of the limb. Of course the wound is a serious one; but the ball was soon extracted, and the patient is comfortable; no doubt as could be expected.

The Monongahela Wharf.

The Monongahela Wharf Committee met yesterday afternoon, when the following business was transacted:

The annual report of Mr. Buchanan, Wharfmaster, shows that the total amount of revenue paid the City Treasury, was $10,274 61. The sources from which this sum was derived were as follows:

Uncollected wharfage of 1872	$ 736 71
Wharf rents	4,942 50
From freight boats	1,197 84
From towboats	1,965 31
From barge wash	726 20
From barge account	631 00
From Monongahela bridge	175 00
Total	$10,374 61

There is still outstanding uncollected bills of 1873-4, amounting to $1,019 56 and from 1872, $717 29, which will swell the total revenue to over $12,000.

Mr. Evans, Wharfmaster, reported receipts for the past year to the amount of $2,508 09. Accepted.

The monthly report of Mr. Buchanan for January, which was accepted, shows the receipts to have been $1,309 41, and the expenditures $143 33, leaving as the net receipts $1,166 08.

On motion of Mr. West, it was ordered that the City Solicitor be instructed to proceed at once in the matter of settling the right to the ownership of the South Side Wharf brought to a speedy termination.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

U. S. District Court—Judge McCandless.

In the matter of Calvin Adams, of Pittsburgh, bankrupt, after argument, the proofs of claim of D. S. H. Gilmore and E. P. Jones, trustees of Smithfield Savings Bank, were ordered to be rescinded.

In the case of W. B. Schmertz & Co. vs. W. B. Anderson, of Armstrong county, the debtor having withdrawn his demand for jury trial, was adjudged a bankrupt, and the matter referred to Register Shaffer.

In the matter of Jos. Liebler, of Pittsburgh, bankrupt, on application of the assignee, an order was made for the examination of the bankrupt and certain witnesses before Register Harper.

In the case of Henry Frank vs. A. Inskeep & Co., of Pittsburgh, alleged bankrupts, on bill in equity filed, and on motion of A. A. Adams, Esq., for petitioning creditor, a rule to show order was issued against certain execution creditors.

District Court—Judges Ewing and White.

Robert Middleton vs. William Beardall, Jno. A. Walker, Edward Loure and Robert Henderson. This was an action of ejectment for a house and lot in the Thirteenth ward. Verdict for the defendants.

The case of Henry Nesbit vs. Alex. King, and Eugene McGary, reported yesterday, is still on trial before Judge White.

Common Pleas—Judges Stowe and Collier.

The case of Watsons vs. Horner and Wood, before reported, is still on trial before Judge Stowe.

Judge Collier is still engaged on the case of Pillow vs. The Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

The flint glass works of T. B. Atterbury, on the South Side, will be put in operation again on Monday.

ALDERMEN mourns the death of one of the black swans recently presented to the Parks of the city by Mr. P. H. Hacke.

ABOUT four o'clock yesterday afternoon the body of a new born infant was found in a box in a stone quarry off Fifteenth street.

A MAN whose name is Squire Ross, of Robinson township, hired to work for him, quietly arose on Thursday morning while the Squire slept and stole eighty dollars from his pockets.

A YOUNG son of Aaron Fidler, residing on Carpenter alley near Main street, Allegheny City, had his head and arms badly burned on Thursday night by falling against the cook stove.

CHARLES BETTON, while engaged at repairing some pipes at the Allegheny water works, on Thursday afternoon, fell from the support on which he was standing, and received severe internal injuries, besides a severe cut on the back of his head. He is improving.

POSTMASTER HOERR, of the South Side, in compliance with the petition of numerous South Side residents, will remove the Post-office immediately. He is negotiating for building No. 1707 Carson street.

ALDERMAN WILLIAM PORTER, of Butler street near Forty-fourth had a hearing yesterday before Alderman McMasters to answer the charge of felonious assault upon Mrs. Gibson. He gave bail for appearance at court.

DAVID LEWIS, a Second avenue saloon keeper yesterday afternoon made an information before Alderman Thomas charging James Roxburry, charging him with stealing ten dollars from the saloon. Warrant issued.

A COLORED woman of the Sixth ward, named Sarah Ryan, appeared before a very excited state, before Alderman Thomas, last evening, and made information against William Dawing and a man named Gannon, charging them with entering her house with intent to commit felony.

AN Allegheny barber, who plies his art on East street, found himself locked out of his shop on Thursday night, and while entering through the window accidentally discharged a revolver which he carried. The ball entered his right hip, but he succeeded in extracting it with a razor.

THE Altoona *Tribune* of yesterdays says: "The approach to Pinkerton's Run, through via the Pennsylvania road, reminds the traveler forcibly of a remark once made by a celebrated divine that the smoky city "is an exact representation of hell with the lid taken off." Since when did James Parton become a "divine," pray?

AN inventory of the goods recently stolen from the Fort Wayne Railroad cars was taken yesterday, and the goods valued at nearly $3000. The parties owning the largest amounts are: James Caldwell, of Allegheny; McCrum & Carlisle, of this city, and Reid, Lighter & Co., of Chicago. There are some goods that have not yet been claimed.

THE wills of Nancy Flack, deceased wife of Abraham Flack, District Attorney Flack, and of John Martin, late of Pine township, were, yesterday morning, filed and admitted to probate in the office of the County Register. S. A. Johnson and Hugh Woodside are executors of the former, and Anna Jane and John Martin executrix and executor of the latter.

ON THURSDAY a man named Henry Howarth, employed at the car shop of the Pennsylvania Railroad in this city received a compound complicated fracture of the right knee joint. He was taken to the Western Pennsylvania Hospital where his wound was dressed by the attending surgeons who will make an effort to save the injured limb, but it is probable that amputation will be necessary.

PITTSBURGH WATER PIPES.

A Good Word for Our Manufactures.

What Engineer W. Milnor Roberts Says About the Work Turned Out at Smith's Foundry.

In his lengthy and able report to the Finance Committee, Mr. W. Milnor Roberts, the well-known engineer, has this to say about a prominent branch of our Pittsburgh manufacturers:

I have examined the method of manufacturing, inspecting and testing the pipes made by contract at Mr. W. Smith's foundry, in Pittsburgh. So far as I can judge, the pipes appear to have been manufactured of good iron, and with proper care, and the city has had its own inspector to examine and test each pipe. The test is a severe one, being a water pressure of 300 pounds per square inch. A number of pipes which exhibited no sign of rupture at 280 pounds pressure, burst before the indicator showed a pressure of 300 pounds. The pipes are all classed and numbered, and the class and number and date of the year, with the manufacturer's initials, are cast on the pipe. Each pipe is weighed, and a record kept of its class, number and weight painted on it. No pipes are received the weight of which is over three per cent. below the specified weight for the twelve inch and upward, or more than four per cent. below for the six, eight and ten inch pipes, and no excess of weight above the average beyond the said per centage is paid for. The straight pipe are cast in dry sand molds, in a vertical position. After passing a hammer inspection they are cleaned and then thoroughly coated inside and outside with cold pitch varnish according to Dr. Angus Smith's process, each casting being previously heated to a temperature of 300 degrees Fahrenheit. The contract for the manufacture and delivery of the pipes is very carefully drawn, so that all castings appear to be provided for to insure perfect castings. The contract is dated December 31, 1872. The delivery to commence March 1st, 1873, to be completed June 1st, 1874. The contract is for the following pipes:

Tons.	Size.	Class.	Price per ton.
264	36 inch	A	$83 00
1,245	36 inch	B	83 00
6,134	36 inch	C	83 00
445	30 inch	A	83 00
426	30 inch	B	83 25
319	30 inch	C	83 25
190	20 inch	B	83 50
373	20 inch	C	83 50
869	8 inch	A B & C	83 50
630	6 inch	A B & C	83 50

300 tons special castings, $110,000. In all eleven hundred and fifty-eight tons of regular and three hundred tons of special castings. The prices are per ton of 2,000 pounds. At the above prices and quantities the contract would amount to $662,108 75. Payments to be made monthly on the certificate of the Engineer. Ten per cent. to be reserved until the fulfillment of the contract. In the contract and specifications, in the inspection and castings, in the recording of the pipes manufactured, in the record of their delivery on the streets where they are to be laid, and in the record of the laying, all proper and intelligent care seems to have been exercised to protect the interests of the city and to guard against current over-payments to the contractor at any stage of the work. It was intimated to me by several persons that I could only know that pipes of certain size and quality had been laid at any particular place by digging down to them and examining them. It was obvious that nothing could be learned in that way, respecting the quality of the pipes, and that it was very unwise to feel satisfied that our examination of the records of the Inspector at the manufactory, and in the Engineer's office, of the pipes in their different stages of manufacture, through delivering and laying, conveys sufficient reliable information to enable me to judge whether there has been any material error in the estimates, whether intentional or unintentionally. The only material error or omission that came under my notice, was one discovered by the Engineer in office, of a mere clerical error by the omission of 47.29 tons of pipes in the current monthly estimates, but it was against the contractor, and not in his favor. The amount was $4,000 40. It was of such a nature that it must surely have been rectified before a final settlement. The contractor, of course, had a right to complain of such an error, but he could only judge to make a final estimate of the amount and value of the work done by Mr. Smith, if might have devoted much more time to the branch of the investigation, but no such duty was called for, and I have only made such examinations as seemed proper to afford a complete insight into the system; from which I could judge reasonably well, whether a fair or unfair method was used, whether there was any system, or want of system, and whether the city was justly dealt with. It is due to all the parties interested to say that under the contract the system of manufacture, inspection, testing, delivering and estimating current monthly estimates is good, and there appears to be no reason to think that it has not been fairly maintained for the rights and interests of both parties to the contract. When a final estimate of the manufacture, delivery of the pipes shall be called for, it will not be difficult to ensure a correct return of the total amount within a very small fraction of possible discrepancy, and quite possibly with exactness. So that the city need suffer no loss in this branch of her operations.

The question has been mooted as to the advisability of entering into such a large contract, in the start, when iron was at a very high figure. I have seen a large number of the pipes, and so far as appearance goes, I have never seen better looking pipes in any city, and I think that Mr. Smith has employed his best appliances to turn out superior work, and his appliances are admirable.

FINANCES.

Meeting of the Committee—The Two-thirds Tax Rate on Rural Districts —The Appropriation Ordinance not Completed.

The Finance Committee of our City Councils met yesterday afternoon, Mr. McCune in the chair.

W. M. Roberts, Engineer specially employed, concluded the reading of his report, an abstract of which we gave yesterday.

The report was accepted and it was decided to recommend to Councils the printing of five hundred copies in pamphlet form.

In addition to what we have published we take from the report the following statement showing the cost of lifting one million gallons of water one foot in various cities:

PLACES.	Years.	Cost for One million Gallons Lift. One foot.	Lift. Feet
Fairmount, Philadelphia	1869	10	94
Schuylkill, Philadelphia	1866	13	115
Charlestown, Mass.	1866	13	147
Chambridge, Mass.	1869	15	110
Salem, Mass.	1868	12	114
Lowville, N. Y.	1869	10	144
Wheeling, Va.	1869	6	200
Allegheny, Pa.	1869	9	291
Brooklyn, N. Y.	1867	15	161
Chicago, Ill.	1865	12	125
Cincinnati, O.	1866	14	165
Detroit, Mich.	1867	18	75
Cleveland, O.	1865	18	78
Hartford, Conn.	1866	6	120
Pittsburgh, Pa.	1867	6	162

The actual current cost at the works in Pittsburgh at the present time may be set down at a trifle under 4 cents per million gallons raised one foot high.

At the same rate, the current cost of raising 40,000,000 gallons one foot high would be $160, and 40,000,000 gallons 350 feet high $854 40.

The committee then took up the matter submitted by H. W. Oliver, Jr., reported yesterday, and after discussion a resolution was adopted ordering a settlement with Mr. Oliver on his paying his share ($1,086) of the bond of Wm. Mays, late tax collector of the Eleventh ward.

The committee then adjourned until seven and a half o'clock P. M.

THE RURAL DISTRICT TAX.

At the evening session, the Chairman, Mr. McCune, brought up the question whether or not under the new Constitution a two-third rate of tax only could be levied in the rural districts.

City Attorney Bigelow being called upon as intimated at the previous day's session, said: In answer to your request of yesterday, as to the effect of the provisions of the new Constitution upon the provision of section 10 of act of April 1, 1868, City Code, page 49: "All real estate situated within the districts of Oakland, Pitt, Peebles, Liberty and Collins townships shall be marked 'rural,' and there shall be assessed and collected thereon two-thirds of the rate of city taxation that may be assessed and collected upon other real estate within said city," and upon the provisions of the 6th Sec. of act of May 10, 1871, I would state that I have examined the question with care and am of opinion that the provisions of acts of Assembly discriminating in favor of certain portions of the city are clearly in conflict with Section 1, Article 14 of the Constitution, which reads: "All taxes shall be uniform, upon the same class of subjects, within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax," and therefore of no effect.

The question is a new one in Pennsylvania, and therefore one upon which there has been no ruling by the courts.

Similar acts of Assembly were declared by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin to be in conflict with a provision of the constitution of that State, that "the rule of taxation shall be uniform," and, therefore, null and void.

The rate of taxation must be uniform throughout the consolidated city.

Without taking any action on the subject, the committee proceeded to consider the appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year, and after a lengthy discussion agreed upon the following:

PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS.

No.	Appropriation	Amount.
1.	Interest on city loans	$190,000 00
2.	Salaries	20,000 00
3.	Printing	145,000 00
4.	Fire Department	225,000 00
5.	Police	90,000 00
6.	Water Works	140,000 00
7.	Streets	20,000 00
8.	Pittsburgh Gas Company	7,000 00
9.	Diamond market	3,000 00
10.	Monongahela wharf	1,000 00
11.	Allegheny wharf	1,000 00
12.	Weigh scales	40,000 00
13.	Contingent fund	10,000 00
14.	Board of Health	12,000 00
15.	East End Gas Company	25,000 00
16.	City property	500 00
17.	Outstanding warrants	25,000 00
18.	Finance fund	100 00
19.	Sinking fund	400 00
20.	Fifth ward market	4,000 00
21.	City Hall furniture	40,000 00
22.	Roads	15,000 00
23.	Surveys	500,000 00
24.	Water loan extension	280,000 00
25.	Water loan interest	80,000 00
26.	Water loan sinking fund	2,000 00
27.	Fifth avenue market	7,000 00
28.	Special sinking fund	3,250 00
29.	Lawrenceville fund	50,000 00
30.	Street and sewer improvement	2,500 00
31.	South Side market	
32.	South Side wharf	1,500 00
33.	Deficiencies	112,720 01
34.	Equalization	15,000 00
35.	South and West Side gas company	10,000 00
36	Fire Department loan sinking fund	94,000 00
37.	Deficiency in water loan interest	75,000 00
	24th Ward special indebtedness	2,096 67
	27th Ward special indebtedness	2,161 95
	31st Ward special indebtedness	1,755 20
	32d Ward special indebtedness	2,311 12
	24th Ward special indebtedness	2,884 70
	35th Ward special indebtedness	515 66
	36th Ward special indebtedness	3,776 67

The total of the above is $2,296,494, of which, however, $500,000 for Water Loan extension simply means that that amount of water bonds are to be issued. This makes the net appropriation to be provided for by taxation $1,796,494, against $1,319,000 last year.

The consideration of that part of the ordinance to provide the ways and means to raise the above sum was postponed until this afternoon.

In a discussion which occurred, however, it appeared that the city tax being required on the new equalized value would be four and a half mills.

Mr. Negley took issue with the City Attorney on the two-thirds tax question on the rural wards, and intimated that the matter would be brought before the courts.

A WORD ON VOTING MONEY.

The Allegheny City Appropriations.

It has been suggested in these columns, that it would not be out of place to review, to some extent, the ordinance providing for the revenues and expenditures of the city government for the current year, reported by the Finance Committee, and passed by the Councils of our sister city of Allegheny.

It will be remembered by our readers that this year the basis of assessment approximates to the actual value, and is consequently much larger than any former year. We believe that in Allegheny city the increase has been a little more than five and a half times what it was last year. Now, the promise was, that as the valuations increased, the millage or assessments should be reduced in like proportion—thus, as the millage last year for city purposes was 14 mills it ought to be this year about 2½ mills.

We must confess that it is rather startling to observe, in the light of the foregoing explanation, that the millage for city purposes has been fixed at the sum of five mills—just double! For poor purposes the millage last year was three mills—it following that the same proportion this year would make the millage about 6-11 of one mill; but we find that instead of that amount being levied, one and a half mills are fixed at the lowest amount with which the Poor Board can get along.

In a word, for city, poor and sewerage purposes, we have a tax levied this year that, on the valuation of 1873, would amount to the enormous sum of 40½ mills, and we have yet park and water tax to hear from, which are not included in the above enumeration. This is running up taxes with a vim that has already, or soon will, in this respect, startled our own municipality, which on this score enjoys no enviable reputation.

We will now introduce Mr. Riddle, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and hear what he had to say on the subject, while his ordinance was pending before Councils. He said:

"I wish to call attention to the fact, that the city tax has been almost doubled. This has been rendered necessary from the great increase of the appropriations."

How very clear these remarks are, may be demonstrated by an appeal by each of our readers, to his own comprehension. Probably, Mr. Riddle will have expressed himself more clearly had he remarked, that the increase of taxes was required by a proposed increase of expenditures. But let us hear him further. He says:

"The Finance Committee desired to have the appropriations sufficient this year; and, after economizing till they could—whittling them down to the lowest point—had fixed the amounts, and desired every member of Councils to remember that the appropriations had been *increased*, and that this amount should not be exceeded a single penny."

Now it strikes us very forcibly that Mr. Riddle has a peculiar way of "*whittling down*" his estimates of expenses by *increasing* them, for if his remarks meant anything they meant that and nothing more. Again he says every member of Councils should be careful, in voting on any improvement, first to know if there was money in the appropriation to pay for the improvement."

We presume that ere this the most of his Councilmanic auditors have forgotten these words of soberness and truth; but we question very much if they are or will be forgetful when their several appropriations are exhausted of the fact of the existence of an appropriation which figures under the head of "Contingent Fund," which is set down for the very large amount of $20,064 88.

Judging the future by the past, Councilmen at the end of the year have not been at all unmindful of this convenient appropriation from which to make transfers for all the little odds and ends of deficiencies in the regular appropriations.

For further information we append the list of appropriations, and the several amounts attached to each:

APPROPRIATIONS.

The committee then proceeded to fix the amount of appropriations necessary to meet the expenses of the various departments of the city for the year, as follows:

No. 1.	Salaries	$ 36,163 00
No. 2.	Interest	41,670 00
No. 3.	Fire department	55,000 00
No. 4.	Printing	8,000 00
No. 5.	Street lights	40,000 00
No. 6.	Wharves and landings	7,000 00
No. 7.	Surveys	8,000 00
No. 8.	Police	45,000 00
No. 9.	Contingent fund	20,064 88
No. 11.	Water works	100,000 00
No. 12.	Outstanding warants	9,560 71
No. 13.	Gas	24,000 00
No. 14.	Sinking fund	20,000 00
No. 15.	Interest on wharf bonds	1,960 00
No. 16.	City property	40,000 00
No. 17.	Health	5,000 00
No. 18.	Bills payable	76,013 99
No. 19.	Markets	2,000 00
	Park Commission	5,000 00
		$535,432 64

THE ESTIMATED RECEIPTS.

Business tax	$ 14,685 11
Water tax	100,000 00
Markets	21,220 63
Weigh scales	10,000 00
Measuring wood and bark	929 52
Vehicle licenses	10,181 24
Board measuring	256 00
Sale of Ferrules	2,448 28
Fines and Forfeitures	5,446 38
Lot Regulations	1,546 00
Ground Rents	1,769 78
Railroads	2,967 20
Interest on unexpended balances	1,525 65
Wharves and Landings	2,768 32
U. S. Postoffice Department	5,000 00
One from various persons	1,168 72
Board of Health	577 51
Switch Licenses	225 00
Pleasant Valley Railway	1,192 40
Water Bonds	75,000 00
City Property	30,000 00
City Taxes	250,000 00
	$535,432 64

It is singular that some of the members of Councils were not induced to imitate Mr. Riddle why he includes $5,000 of money for the parks in his estimate, when it is well known that a special tax is levied for this purpose? Why is cash on hand not included in the list of resources? The Controller reports that the public depositories held $87,807 06 of this necessary article, and if included in resources would alone serve to reduce the levy nearly one-half.

We might indulge in further inquiries of this nature, but will content ourselves with but one: Why are the receipts from interest on unexpended balances set down at the insignificant figure of $1,525 67? Do not the Finance Committee of Allegheny City expect to have more than $30,000 in the Treasury on the last day of the year? If not, we can only say that they do not expect to collect their levy.

Now after such an alarming (reposed) increase of taxation, might we not reasonably suppose that the city should be run without incurring any extra indebtedness? But what are the facts? $250,000 are set aside as a sinking fund to pay indebtedness, and an issue of $75,000 of water bonds is provided for—so that after deducting the amount of bonds to be redeemed from the receipts from taxes, we find that in spite of the enormous revenue demanded, the bonded debt of the city will be increased in addition some $55,000.

Are the citizens of Allegheny, generally noted for their intelligence and quick perception of self interest, content to hug such delusive financiering schemes to their bosoms? We think so.

STILL AT THE RETURNS.

The Judges Encounter Numerous Irregularities.

Yesterday afternoon at half-past two o'clock, Judges Stowe and Collier resumed the task of "computing" the returns of the late elections in Pittsburgh and Allegheny. Very many irregularities have been discovered, growing out of a misapprehension of the law in regard to the details of conducting the elections and making the returns. Scarcely any two returns have been made alike. This renders the work of computation much more difficult and tedious than it would otherwise have been.

As has been stated, quite a number of the returns were made to the Mayor, the election officers being in doubt as to where they should be deposited. Some of the districts, it seems, have failed to make returns anywhere, and in view of these facts the court yesterday made the following orders:

And now, February 20, 1874, the Prothonotary is directed to issue a rule to the election officers and overseers of all such election districts from which full returns have not been received, to appear forthwith in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny county, with all election papers in their possession, and make returns according to law.

And now February 20, 1874, the Mayor of the city of Pittsburgh is hereby ordered and directed to produce in court all election papers in his possession pertaining to the election held on the 17th instant.

By the Court.

Major Hartzell, Mayor's Clerk, was called over to the court all the returns which had been left at the Mayor's office, and the election officers in such districts as have not yet been heard from, or from which the Marshal returns have been received, will be compelled to make such returns as will satisfy the Court.

The judges are becoming thoroughly posted in the new law, and when they have completed their work they will be enabled to give such instructions to election officers as will prevent all confusion and mistake hereafter. They will have the Commissioners issue these instructions in circular form, should the present law remain in force, and copies will be sent out with the election papers hereafter.

Clerk McCleary will begin the work of opening and recording the borough and township elections to-day. Under the law, all these returns are required to be made to the Clerk of the Courts within three days after the election, which time expired last evening.

Market Committee.

The Market Committee of Allegheny Councils held a meeting last evening, at which they elected Samuel Fletcher market constable. They also decided to have prepared, and to present to Councils an ordinance for locating a pair of coal scales on Ridge street.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

But two more opportunities remain for the enjoyment of the novelties introduced by Baker and Farron, the original artists who are doing "Chris and Lena" in the play of that name. The matinee this afternoon will doubtless prove a triumph of talent, as well as a source of unlimited enjoyment to the ladies and their companions. And at the farewell appearance this evening the performers will make their parting salutation amid the usual roars of laughter and with the good wishes of a large audience.

The lovers of the beautiful in nature and art will not forget the appearance of the Comic Opera Company of James A. Oates on Monday evening. The box sheet is ready for inspection this morning.

Trimble's Varieties Theater.

The matinee performances at this house have always been popular, and are always largely attended. At the one this afternoon a choice bill will be given. A regular feast of good things will be set forth on the stage this evening.

National Trans-Allegheny Canal.

In pursuance of a resolution passed at the adjournment of the Convention held in Cumberland, Md., September 10th, 1873, of the friends of the National Trans-Allegheny Canal, via the Youghiogheny river, said Convention will convene in Lafayette Hall, in the city of Pittsburgh, on Thursday, March 19th, 1874, at 12 o'clock M. Hon. Montgomery Blair, President of the Cumberland Convention, will preside. Able and efficient speakers, from different parts of the country, will address the meeting. A full attendance of the friends of the project is earnestly desired.

THE NATIONAL CAPITOL.

What an English Traveler Thinks of It.

An English gentleman, temporarily sojourning in the city, desires to record his impressions of our national capitol, and we give them below:

The first thing which attracts the attention of the traveler on rounding up at the depot, is the great, cloud-like dome of the capitol, which springs up into the clear air with a bold, free sweep, perfect in its symmetry, and seeming to rest on the mass of marble at its base with an ease and lightness seemingly little consistent with the thousands of tons of material used in the constructing of it. Doubtless, to this characteristic of lightness, uniformity, and perfect symmetry, is due the fame of the dome of this celebrated building, which properly takes rank with the highest achievements of ancient or modern architectural art. To most European buildings, there attaches a sense of weight, of heaviness—impressive, it is true, when each feature is taken into consideration separately, but which, notwithstanding, leaves an impression on the mind of a want of harmony, of adaptability, and, above all, of symmetrical proportion. It is this latter quality which above all others, characterizes the capitol, and gives to it and its distinctive and distinguished place in architecture, and places it pre-eminent amongst the capitols of earth. In approaching from any part of the city, the capitol has a most admirable location, its situation being such that it looms into prominence from every point of view.

Entering the building from the side which looks on the city, you are conducted directly to the rotunda. My first desire on coming under the dome was to look up, but, as this would be depriving myself of the enjoyment on that